

-	FAMILY GROUP No	Husband' Data		City, Town or Place County or Province, etc. State or Country	
	This Information Obtained From:		C/84/	City, fown of Fince County of Province, etc. State of Country	(Go. Into.
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3 5	Malhaa Cita	-	Wife's Evil 1	Maiden Name Rachel Victo	
2 5	may be a sister	Wife's Data			rase
F de			Day Month Year	City, Town or Place County or Province, etc. State or Country	Add. Info.
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1	Full Name of Spouse	Death		Ch. v. 20	138
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,]	2 (Comerica)	Birth	ut. 20 Bet	1861 at au 1 mith. VPCh. V.1	9. 170
7	(mercentiana)	Mar.	24 7km 180	13 Opel (+ Be + 12740 - 18 Ceps -	183
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/	(mislance)	Mar.	17 Jan 189	6 Opel Ct War # 25529 -3001.	4/196
/	Full Name of Spouse*	Death	,	Eunicel	2.11.20
	Guller Dradules	Burial			0
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	Pall Name of Spouse®	Death	CA CASTA	4/. 12	111
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	5 0 1.	Birth	11 (cpr. 16	74 Eunew Ch. V.1p. 129	120
	umulies	Mar.	15 Dec 189	2. Opel Et Use # 24/79 - 29 Dec 1	192
	Full Name of Spouse®	Death		Eunice Ch.V.	10.20
	Wasilia toriterat	Burial			7
	6 2	Birth	3ans. 11	il Eunice Ch. V. 1p. 162	
١ ١	Lucio Marie	Mar.	and the same	The state of the s	1
,	Full Name of Spouse®			4	+
	\	Death			
		Burial		7.	-
	$7 \sim 10^{-1}$	Birth	11 July 1.	78 Eunice Ch. V. Ip. co-x	
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_	9 2	Birth	6 Main 18	82 Eunice Ch. V. 10.208	1
	Louis Dona		willy 18	an inunce ch. v. 1 p. 200	<del> </del>
	Full Name of Spouge®	Mar.	V		
	D T -	Death			
	rosa tonlenol	Burial		-	
	9 104	Birth	6 Dec 188	4 6 une Ch. V.1p. 282	
	Marie alda	Mar.			
	Full Name of Spouse®	Death			<del> </del>
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$\dashv$	10 0	Burial	77 700	887 Eunice Ch. V. 20,66	
	10 Px.	Birth	27 Mar. 1	887 Eunee Ch. V. 2p. 60	-
- 1	1/isspeles	Mar.		*	
- 1			1		1 1-1 0.
	Full Name of Spouse	Death Burial			1710

11. Lusanne m. alce Perrodin - 11 Jun. 1888 Eunice Ch. V. 2 p. 95

12. Antino Eman 6. 13 hov. 1889 Eunice Ch. V. 2 p. 138

13. Mathelde Lula b. 26 Jan. 1892 Eunice Ch. 4.2p. 236

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-		Birth Chr'nd						
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-		Death	10 gan 10.	1 Oper C	1 Oct -1		Ch. V. 1 p. 6	V GUMLE
-		Burial					x. v. 1 p. 6,	
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-		Occupa	ation	Church A	ffiliation		Military Rec.	
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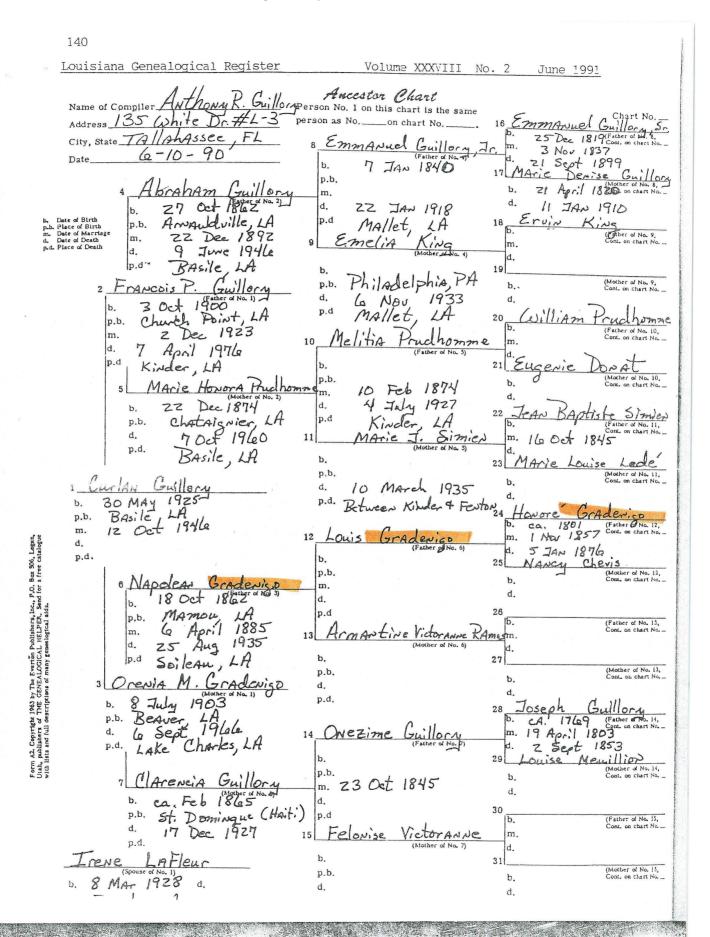
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AMILY GROUP No		Husband's F	ull Name Honore Sirale	m(40
is formation Obtained From:	Husband's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place County or Province, etc. State or County	
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± 4336	Rental	1 5 Chal	176 age 15 yrs. VF Ch. V. 1 p. 39?	27.302.
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Honore	Birth	10 111ay 10.	56 Upel CA. V. 4 p. 40	
Full Name of Spouse®	Mar.	9250011	1416 7 : 1 30	
	Death	D Marrie	1869 at age 30 yrs v.P. Cli. v. 1	p.6
-	Burial			<u></u>
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19 2 c. m. 27 Jan. 1853 Joaching Englit 7. m.o.C. Opel C+ Dre Mar. # 1029 Obstine Renaul dan of Espie Lexaud and pranis Français Renaud Espie dan. of. Joseph Espie and Française Dames Same family - namer transport Main Laysand dan of Benjamin Layroad and Eughresine Layssard dan of Benjamin Layssard and Celestine Thierry



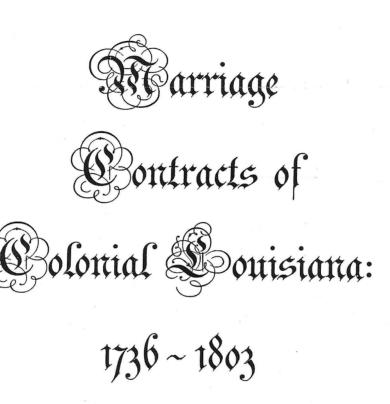


# The Louisiana Genealogical Register

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VOLUME XXXVIII NO 2 JUNE 1991

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Winston De Ville

-	Contificate of Waptism
	St. Landry Catholic Church
	900 N. Union St.
	Opelousas, La. 70570
<b>a</b>	hat Honore Gradingo
	hild of Honere Graningo
	10 René marie Kjaril
	orn in St. Kandry Parish of Laurisiana
	the 15 day of may 1834, 6
	— Mas Baptized — §
on	the day of January to 1837
	according to the
	Rite of the Roman Catholic Church
Ьy	the Reverend Father H. Flavins Rassi
9	Martin Comean
thi	sponsors being Henriette for Chifelle
,	as appears from the Baptismal Register of this Church
B	ated March 7,1982 Hol. 4 Page 40 No. 85
	Goldie m- young

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#### 148. GRADENIGO. Three households, of a mother and her two sons.

399	GRADINIGO, female	Augustn.	1766-84 1766-84	Augustin Elizabeth M. CLERMONT	1772?	FL
	female		1795-1800	Elise	1797	LA
	_			Severin	1801?	LA
	female		1801-10	Augustine	1802	LA
	female		1801-10	Brigitte	1807	LA
	female		1801-10	-		
266	GRADINIGO,	Joseph	?-1765	Joseph Bonaparte		AL?
	female		1766-84	Adelaide J. LeMELLE		
	male		1801-10	Francois	1802	LA
	male		1801-10	Joseph	1803	LA
	male		1801-10			
	male		1801-10			
383	GRADINEGO,	Veuve	?-1765	Margarita KREBS	1749?	MS
	female		1766-84	Marie	1774?	LA
	male		1766-84	Antoine Donato	1781	LA
	other free	person				

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<u>MANCOFSOS</u> Seeking information on a Peter F. MANCOFOSOS, 2nd Lieutenant LA Volunteers War with Mexico. He was given bounty land in Southeast Nebraska that he returned. <u>Mollie B. Elmer, 476 Oak Ave #72, Cheshire, CT 06410-3010</u>.

GRADENIGO. LEMELLE Seeking information on Joseph GRADENIGO m. Adelaide LEMELLE (dau. of Francois LEMELLE and Marie Jeanne). He died ca 1833 at Opelousas, St. Landry Parish. They had three children; Francois, baptized Nov. 1804 at age 2½ yrs; Joseph, baptized Nov. 1804 at age 14 months, and Aimee, who m. Edmond Donato 8 Feb. 1831 at Opelousas. Berniece Walker, 43041 Country Club Dr., Oakhurst, CA 93644.

SNIDER, PORTER, HARPER Want to exchange information on the SNIDER family of St. Tammany Parish, LA 1820-1880. In 1826 William SNIDER, b. 1800, Maryland, m. Susahhah Britannia PORTER, b. 1810, Georgia or South Carolina. Their son William A. S. (Kirk) SNIDER, b. 1833, m. Frances Elizabeth HARPER in 1865. Some of Susannah's other children were Eliza Delinda (married 1st, Henry WELLS 2nd., John JACQUES), Charles, Joseph, John and Herbert (m. Adrenna Mc Kean). Mrs. B. J. Ferrell, 1209 Carter Grove Rd., Hazel Green, AL 35750-9035.

HUFF, DAY, OLIVER, RATELLE Seeking information on Jacob HUFF, b. ca 1810 in New York. He m. 16 Feb 1848 Lucinda DAY, widow of Henry OLIVER, in Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, LA. Lucinda was b. ca 1810 in North Carolina. This would be his second marriage. In 1850 Federal Census his household had 3 sons; Jacob 12, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(?) 4, and Eugene 1. However, there was a daughter, Marie Elvina, who would have been 7 years old. She m. Jean Baptiste Emile RATELLE on 5 April 1864, St. Landry Catholic Church in Opelousas, LA. She d. one year later, 28 March 1865 in Bois Mallet. She left one daughter Marie Elvina RATTEL, my grandmother. Where was Bois Mallet? When did Jacob HUFF come to LA? Was he originally from Germany? Who was his first wife, who would be my gg. grandmother? Any and all information will be welcome and deeply appreciated. Esther D. Sexton, 5506 Crosswind Dr., San Antonio, TX 78239.

COCKERHAM, FARR, DAVIS, GUICE Looking for information on Marguerite COCKERHAM (RHETTA) b. ca 1885 near Jonesboro, LA, d. ca 1939 Bolton, MS. Marguerite m. James Charles FARR near Vicksburg or Bolton, MS in 1901. Was her father Aaron DAVIS? Who was her mother? Did she also marry a GUICE? Barbara Reed, 1510 Flowers Dr., Mobile, AL 36605.

JASON, JOSEPH, FONTENOT I am looking for any records on the following persons: Charles JASON, Louise JOSEPH, Louise FONTENOT, Eliza or Elise JOSEPH. These ancestors lived in the Ville Platte area, date unknown. Would welcome any information. Andrew Jason, Jr., 6304 Hidden Springs Dr., Arlington, TX 76017-5133.

<u>CORLOUER</u> Seeking two CORLOUER's who were emigrants to Louisiana about 1830-1860. Can anyone provide information on this family? <u>Jean-Luc Corlouer, 22</u> <u>Rue Honore de Baizac, 71670 Le Breuil, France</u>.

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GOPERT, EBENEZER 16 Sept 1777 Creek. From Georgia with wife, one child.

GORDEMAR 7 Feb 1769 500 a. Miss. River near Natches. French protestant who wished to become British citizen to settle and cultivate land. Must take oath of allegiance and take up grant in 7 months.

GORDON, ARTHUR 16 Aug 1768 1000 a. on Mississippi River. Take up grant in 7 months and settle within two years. No record he did so.

GORDON, JOHN 26 Dec 1776 350 a. fam. ri. 500 a. bounty on Natalbani River. From Virginia 1775 where his attachment to present government made him choose to abandon his interest there and come to the Province. Himself, a white man servant, and 5 negroes.

GORMAN, WILLIAM 21 July 1773 250 a. fam. ri. on Little non-commissioned officer. Creeks joining WILLIAM JOYNER land on Second Creek.

GORTLING, WILLIAM 5 May 1773 150 a. fam. ri. 1000 a. purchase on Mississippi River about 5 miles above Loftus Cliffs. Was a Captain.

GOSSETT, EBENEZER 1 Sept 1776 500 a. Boyd's Creek. From Georgia.

GOULD or GOLD, GEORGE 28 July 1772 1000 a. Thomp son's Creek. Surveyed by ELIAS DURNFORD on 5 July 1772. Also petitioned for 2000 a. Pearl River.

GOWER, BENJAMIN 2 May 1776 500 a. St. Catherine's Creek by purchase. Had been granted 500 a. on 24 Nov 1768, to adjoin land of Lt. Gov. BROWNE.

GRADINEGO, JOHN 29 Sept 1767 1000 a. adjoining land on Lake Pontchartrain granted to JEROME MATULICH. Granted provided land is vacant and not occupied by St. MARTIN. Wife and family of 10. 24 July 1772, 550 a. Amit River.

GRAHAM, COLIN 9 July 1772 2000 a. on Miss. River near Manchac. Released 500 a. to DAVID HODGE. Was a reduced staff officer.

GRANDIDIER, JAMES 8 April 1779 1000. a. west side

GRANT, GEORGE 25 April 1777 2000 a. Big Black on east side, about 20 miles up the River. A surgeon in the Navy. Land pursuant to R. P.

GRANT, HUMPHREY 10 Dec 1776 1000. bounty Thompson's Creek.

GRANT, JOHN 9 Oct 1777 2000 a. on Miss. River 28 leagues from Ft. Natches. Was a Baster's Mate at the reduction of Louisbourgh. Land by R. P.

GRANT, WILLIAM 10 Sept 1775 2000 a. Amit River 9 miles from junction with the Iberville River. Petitioned also for 2000 a. on Miss. River and 1000 a. at Walnutt Hills. Reduced lieutenant in the Navy.

GRAVES, LUCY 16 Sept 1777 Petitioned for land on Fairchild's Creek near land surveyed for WATKINS. From South Carolina in 1774. Postponed.

GRAY, MAYES or MAYO 26 Feb 1777 200 a. east side Gray's Creek about 21 miles from the Amit River.

GRAYDEN, ALEXANDER 8 July 1776 200 a. fam. ri. 100 a. bounty 15 miles s. e. Natches at Walnutt Bottoms. Left South Carolina because of rebellion. Himself, 2 apprentices, one of whom is a house carpenter.

GREEN, JAMES 11 Oct 1777 100 a. fam. ri. east side Pascagoula River. From Rhode Island 1775 L

200 a. fam. ri. Boyd's GREEN, THOMAS 16 Feb 1768 500 a. on Miss. River, n. e. on land laid out to JAMES CRAWFORD, n. w. on the river. In Jan. 1769, he stated he had arrived at Natchez and repetitioned for 500 a. Was granted only 50 acres provided he take oath of allegiance. Take up grant 7 mos.

> GREGSON, JAMES 22 April 1776 300 a. Tonica Bayou on fam. ri. located east of Lake Pontchartrain. Arrived in Province in June 1773, with wife, 3 children.

GRIFFIN, EBENEZER 19 April 1773 Took oath before the Council that his family consisted fo himself, wife and two children, who intended to settle in the Province. No record that they did.

GUN. JOHN 8 April 1779 200 a. Amit River, 30 miles above the junction with the Comit, on west side. He was a reduced

HACKSHAW, THOMAS 22 Jan 1778 500 a. east side of the great lake near Tonica Bayou. Petition stated that he was from the Island of St. Vincent. Had wife, 3 children, and 6 negroes on the island. The 500 a. were to be granted in the right of his wife, daughter of HANY ALEXANDER in favor of Mr. ALEXANDER's children, granted 26 Dec 1776. Also asked for 400 a. as his present family right. Council advised that remainder of his family right would be granted with the arrival of the family in the Province.

HALDIMAND, FREDERICK 28 July 1772 The Petition stated: That your petitioner has served during the late war in America and was reduced as a military governor at the conclusion of the war. That by His Majesty's Royal Pro-clamation of October 7, 1763, the Governors of the several Provinces on the Continent of North America are directed to grant such military officers as had served in the late war, the quantity of 5000 acres, subject at the expiration of ten years after the date of the grant to the same quit rent as other lands are subject in the Province within which they are granted, and also subject to the same conditions of cultivation and improvements. Your petitioner therefore prays for a grant of 5000 a. of land conformable to the directions of the said Proclamation in such places where vacant as your petitioner or his agent shall choose..... Granted if agreeable to the King's Proclamation. Haldimand was a reduced field major and said his family consisted of himself, Amit River about 28 miles above the forks. Late a reduced staff officer. Land by R. P.

Amit River about 28 miles above the forks. Late a reduced as follows: 1500 a. Amit. R; 1000 a. Comit; 500 a. Iberville R; 1000 a. near Natches; 1000 a. Thompson's Creek. In May 1773, was granted 500 a. fam. ri. and 1000 a. purchase on Houma Chita Creek.

> HAMBLIN (HAMBERLIN ?), ANTHONY. 11 Feb 1778 300 a. fam. ri. Bayou Pierre if vacant. Arrived in Province June 1773.

HAMILTON, HUGH 1 Oct 1777 250 a. fam. ri. and 250 a. bounty about 80 miles east of the Pascagoula R. to pass when he entered the Province. Received warrant of survey 25 June

HAMILTON, JAMES 30 July 1772. 500 a. Mississippi River near Thompson's Creek.

HANDLEY, DAVID 6 Nov. 1776. 500 a. fam. ri. at the Choctaw Path at the ford of Sandy Creek. Arrived in the Province May 1773; wife, 6 chn., 2 indentured servants, 1 negro.

HANKLE, JACOB 7 Oct 1772 100 a. Pascagoula R. at Indian

HANNEY, SAMUEL 6 Dec 1776 5000 a. surrounding Ft. Natches. Cleared ground toward south and east to begin beyond ground which may be thought proper to be reserved for the fortification and town lots.

HANNON (HARMON or HAMMOND), PHILIP 6 Nov 1776 150 a. fam. ri. between Fairchild's Cr and Boyd's Cr. Had been in the Province since 1766 with no land granted.

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- (155) 18 January 1811. Sale of Land. MARGUERITE KREBS, widow of JOHN GRADENIGO deceased sells to ETIENNE LAMORANDIER fils for the sum of \$60 a certain tract or parcel of land lying in the Parish of St. Landry and situated in the Big Woods over against the Island and having 5 acres in front by 20 acres depth, bounded on the South by lands sold to WILLIAM BRENT. /s/ In the thirty fifth year of American Independence at Opelousas. Ve. Gradenigo, Augustin Gradenigo (witness). Voorhies, John Gradenigo, L. Fontenot, fils, all witnesses and sons-in-law to the said widow.
- (156) 18 January 1811. Approval of Slave Sale. WILLIAM ROGERS approves a sale of a negroe woman slave named Jenny aged about 17 years made on the 22 October 1810 by ELIZA ROGERS his wife. Slave was sold to VALERY ROY. /s/ Wm. Rogers. Witnesses: Edwin Lorrain and John Murphy. Geo. King.
- (157) 18 January 1811. Approval of Slave Sale. WILLIAM ROGERS has approved the sale made by his wife ELIZA ROGERS on the 27 November 1810 to LOUIS TOURIAC of a negro woman named Polly. /s/ Wm. Rogers. Witnesses: Edwin Lorrain and John Murphy. Geo. King, Parish Judge.
- (158) 8 February 1811. Land Sale. BENJAMIN ANDRUS acknowledges the sale to VEUVE (widow) JEAN BAPTISTE CORMIER of a tract of land situated on the "riviere Nez Pique" containing 15 arpents front by the depth of 40 arpents, this land being a portion of a grant of 30 arpents front and bearing date 16 February 1788 accorded by FORSTALL then commandant of the Post of Opelousas. /s/ Benjamin Andrus. Witnesses: Edwin Lorrain and Sevin Wail, and John Thompson. Geo. King.
- (159) 8 February 1811. Guardian Bond. JAMES STILLE, BENJAMIN MORGAN, JAMES STERRETT AND JOHN WATKINS of the City of New Orleans stand jointly bound unto WILLIAM WIKOFF of the County of Opelousas in the Territory of Orleans as Guardian of FERNANDO GAYOSO in the sum of \$8,000 which obligation is conditioned for the payment by the said James Stille (his step-father) to the said Fernando Gayoso when he shall attain the age of 21 years. William Wickoff Guardian has consented to accept a mortgage from James Stille in lieu of the aforesaid obligation; mortgaged is the plantation of James Stille situated in Bellevue in the County of Opelousas containing about 1,240 acres bounded on the South by FRANCOIS RICHARD, on the West by YLERE JEANY (sic) and on the North by the Church Bayou together with all and singular appurtenances thereunto. /s/ James Stille and Margarita Stille. Geo. King, P. Judge.
- (160) 9 February 1811. Land Sale. JEAN BAPTISTE CHIASSON for the sum of \$60 cash paid in hand sells to JOSEPH REAO (Reaux?) a certain tract of land situated at the Plaquemine Brulle in St. Landry Parish, bounded by ANTOINE BAPTISTE FONTENOT on one side and J.B. CHIAS SON the bargainor on the other and containing 5 arpents front by the ordinary depth of forty. /s/ Jean Baptiste Chiasson (X his mark). Witnesses Edwin Lorrain and Joseph Galien (X his mark). Geo King, P. Judge.

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that certain tract of land situated on the Coteaux and having six acres in front by the ordinary depth, bounded on one side by the lands of JOHN WAYBLE and on the other by lands of CAVALIER & SONS being all wood land. Also, two negro men slaves; one named Valentine aged about fifty years, the other named Congo aged about forty-five years - being the same land and slaves Michel Wayble sold to Mary W. Bordelon on 14 August last. /s/ Mary (X her mark) Vevue Bordelon. Witnesses: Edwin Lorrain and D. J. Sutton. Geo King.

- (44) 9 July 1810. Sale of Slave. JOHN COLLINS sells to DANIEL J. SUTTON for \$535 cash a certain negro slave named Edward aged about nineteen years. /s/John Collins. Test: William Cummingham and J. D. Reeves. Geo King.
- (45) 11 July 1810. Mortgage. DANIEL CALLAGHAN mortgages all his land and tenements with all appurtenances lying in the Parish of St. Landry unto WILLIAM McKAY and JOHN BILES his securities in a certain suit in which EDWARD LIVINGSTON has judgement against said Callaghan for the sum of \$550. /s/ Daniel Callaghan. Test: Edwin Lorrain, Gillies Thompson. Geo King.
- (46) 13 July 1810. Sale of Land. WILLIAM L. BRENT purchases land from the widow and heirs of JOHN/JEAN GRADENIGO. Said widow and heirs are: MARGUERITE KERBS widow of JOHN GRADENIGO dec.;
  (1) JOSEPH GRADENIGO; (2) AUGUSTIN GRADENIGO; (3) HILAIRE GRADENIGO; (4) NICHOLAS ROUSSEAU representing his wife MARIE GRADENIGO; (5) ETIENNE LAMORANDIER for his wife MARGUERITE GRADENIGO; (6) LOUIS CARRIERE for his wife LOUISE GRADENIGO; (7) CORNELIUS VOORHIES for his wife AIME GRADENIGO; and (8) LOUIS FONTENOT FILS for his wife BRIGITE GRADENIGO.

Said widow and heirs deliver, set over and grant unto said WM. L. BRENT all that certain tract of land situated in the Parish of St. Landry at the Island glois (Langlois?) being one half of the said land with all privileges and dependances of 40 acres french in depth with the exceptions of twelve acres french with the ordinary depth. Of these said twelve acres, five acres front are now in the possession of (7) CORNELIUS VOORHIES, and seven acres front in the possession of (5) ETIENNE LAMORANDIER, said seven acres being part of a tract of ten acres now the property of Lamorandier of which three acres front are on the other half of the island--being the same land that JOHN GRADENIGO deceased, purchased of CHARLES VIGE on th 27 September 1791, VIGE having purchased same from LOUIS PELLERIN.

Also, all that certain tract of land situated in said parish and lying vis-a-vis to the said island in the Big Woods, having twenty-five arpens front by twenty acres in depth, bounded on the North by land of Etienne Lamorandier and on the South by CHARLES PITRE--being the same tract Jean Gradenigo purchased of Charles Vige who had an order of survey from GOVERNOR MIRO dated 20 March 1790-- together with all the buildings, houses, improvements, and appurtenances on and belonging thereon. Price \$3,500. All sign.

(to be Continued)

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#### **PLAISANCE**

In the mid-1800s, the Plaisance race track was a popular gathering place. Races were run sometimes on Saturdays, sometimes on Sunday. F.L. Pitre was the proprietor. He advertised on Dec. 10, 1853, a race for "untried Creole horses." The entrance fee was \$25. Admission for gentlemen was 25 cents, a buggy 50 cents, and a hack \$1. Ladies and children were admitted free.

#### PRAIRIE RONDE

Out on Prairie Ronde, northwest of Opelousas, stood a thick grove of trees once known as Gradenigo's Island, later called "Gradney's Island." Don Juan de Gradenigo came from a noble family in Venice. On a voyage to America, he met and married Marguerite Krebs, daughter of a wealthy merchant in Mobile. They moved to Opelousas and bought a piece of land three miles wide from east to west and 1 ½ miles from north to south at the place called Gradenigo's Island.

One of the Gradenigo sons, Antonio, was sent to Europe for his education, but ran away in 1798 to join Napoleon's army in Egypt. He was never heard from again.

Father Michel Barriere, who was the priest at Opelousas for many years, noted in 1796 in the St. Landry Church records: "All the persons mentioned in this book under the name of Gradenigo belong to the same family, namely the family of the same name in the Senate of Venice. This Don Juan de Gradenigo is the brother of Ambassadors, Senators, and others, in particular of the V. Rev .... Gradenigo, Canon of St. Mark, Venice, who died seven or eight years ago. This is a fact absolutely beyond doubt, as my brother, who kept up a correspondence with Venice, used to serve as intermediary, sending me the letters which I handed to Don Juan de Gradenigo. In 1356 one Juan Gradenigo was Doge of Venice.

"The worthy gentleman who traveled through all Europe and the two Americas," Barriere's note continues, "and, having come finally to Mobile, as he became enamoured with the virtues and charms of Miss Kraps (sic), of a German family, married her at Mobile and remained in this country. The Rev. Martin Duralde and myself were his intimate friends; still we never attempted to pry into the mystery of his emigration to Louisiana. He died here and was buried the first of March, 1809."

The first actual bank in St. Landry Parish was located at the home of Lastie Dupre in Prairie Ronde. This was a private brick vault where the wealthy planter accommodated his many friends by allowing them to place their bags of money for safekeeping

#### The GRADENIGO STORY\*

I am Giovanni Gradenigo. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, my ancestors lived on Korcula Island near the Dalmatian coast of Croatia (1). The Gradenigo coat of arms is carved in stone near that of the great explorer Marco Polo on the Island of Korcula. Things did not always go well in the wars against the Ottoman Turks and the Genoese in those years and the Gradenigo and Polo families became more established in Venice. Some became Doges of Venice and bishops of the church.

Born in Venice in 1725, I travelled much in Europe and to South and North America seeking my fortune. My arrival here was in the early 1760's; the Archives in Mobile have me listed as a merchant. The Spanish were in control of Mobile at that time and my name was translated to Juan Gradenigo. Later, in French Louisiana, it was changed again, this time to Jean.

My life was changed profoundly when I was invited to visit the family of Hugo Krebs in Pascagoula. I fell in love with this pioneering family and especially with their daughter, Marguerite. She was gifted with grace, beauty and virtue and I knew it was time for me to become serious about the future. Sadly, her mother, Marie Josephine la Pointe Krebs had departed life on Earth only two years after Marguerite's birth. But, she grew up with the love of her father, her six brothers and sisters and her seven half brothers and sisters of Hugo's second family.

Marguerite was 17 when her father gave her to me in marriage in 1765 in the Diocesan church of Mobile.

Opportunities for trading were developing in the outpost of Opelousas in Louisiana. Our departure was tearful and heartrending but this was the way life was lived in this rapidly developing new world. We had ten children in Louisiana and nine of them grew to adulthood.

German families began settling on the right bank of the lower Mississippi river between 1725 and 1750. The French Acadians from Nova Scotia were relocating along the river between New Orleans and Baton Rouge in the 1760's. They had been expelled from Nova Scotia by the British in 1755, but they soon discovered the richness of the soil in the prairie country to the West of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers.

We were already established in the Teche country with only a few Canadian, German and English families in the area when the Acadians began arriving. I grew up with gondolas in Venice. Imagine the Cajun's surprise when they arrived to find an Italian singing a madrigal while poling a pirogue down Bayou Teche.

Our plantation was a strip of beautiful rich land, three miles long and over one mile wide just northwest of Opelousas. This was the land that Longfellow immortalized in his epic poem Evangeline. As he described it

"This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks, Bearded with moss, and in garments green, indistinct in the twilight, Stand like Druids of old, with voices sad and prophetic..."

We all know that today, those voices ring with the joyful laughter and joie de vivre of the Acadian country.

Our fondest aspirations for a bright and fulfilling future were being realized as we and our children were among the founding families of Opelousas, the cities of Lafayette, St. Martinville, New Iberia and the towns along Bayou Teche

It fell to me in the latter 1700's to become "Major Domo" in the construction of St Landry parish's church in Opelousas. The records of those transactions are there today. Names of Marguerite's and my grandchildren include Gradenigo, Gradigo, Voorhies, Fontenot, Tessier, Ducote, Carriere, Kennison, Ray, Genin, Alexander,

Thibodaux, Lejeune, LeBlanc and many, others. Our daughter, Aimee, married Cornelius Voorhies from a well to do Dutch family. He took Aimee to visit his parents in New Jersey and then to meet her Gradenigo relatives in Venice. He later became sheriff of St. Landry Parish under the first Governor of Louisiana, William C.C. Claiborne. Aimee's son, Cornelius Jr., studied law and became Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

One of our sons became restless to see the world as I had. We sent him to study in Italy and to learn the culture of his ancestry. While there he joined Napoleon's expedition to Egypt . We never learned what happened but he never returned.

Our children married well and had many children. One of our daughter's, Brigette, married a French Canadian named Fontenot. One of their children married Maximilian Kennison. Several generations later, Evelyn, the daughter of Maximilian Kennison Ray married into the Clyde LeBlanc family in Houma, Louisiana. One of her daughters, Clyde Anne, married a person named Davis. One of her sisters married a Thibodaux, one a Martinez and one a Lejeune; her brother Louis lives in South Carolina.

Clyde Anne settled in Pascagoula to bring up her four children. She closed the loop from Pascagoula to Louisiana and back to 'Goula' that started two hundred years earlier when Marguerite LaPointe Krebs married Juan Gradenigo and moved to Opelousas.

Today the X-greats grandchildren of Simon de la Pointe, Marguerite and Hugo Krebs and their children number into tens of thousands and probably more. Certainly, the descendents of all of the early families buried here in the Krebs cemetery are now all over this magnificent country and the world.

There is justifiable pride in the fact that descendents from the early Pascagoula area had much to do with the growth and the success of our great nation .

I passed away on March 1, 1809. Margeurite died in 1820 and is buried next to me in Opelousas.

My last will and testament, written in my own hand, is on file in the St Landry courthouse. I left all of my estate to my dear wife, Marguerite, who lived to be 70 years old. I asked the children to give her the loving care she had given to them and to me for so many years.

Peace and love to all, and in the language I learned as a boy in Venice
"Dio Ti Benedice" God Bless You.
Giovanni (Juan ) Gradenigo

\*As told by Ovide Davis at the Krebs Cemetery Feast of All Saints program on October 30,2008.

(1) Vinco Ivancevic's, article "Stone Carved Coats of Arms on Korcula" Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences, #381 -1978 states that Korcula Island has stone carved coats-of-arms of Marco Polo, Dolfin, and Bragadin as well as Gradenigo. The same article states that the wife of Marino Gradenigo chose her mother Dona (Donata) and her uncle (Barba) Ser Marco Polo as her executors;

# DASPIT DE SAINT-AMAND

LANGUEDOC ET GUIENNE

SEIGNEURS D'ASPIT, DE VALEVILLE, DE BAVARLIES ET AUTRES LIEUX.



Annes: D'or, à un pin de sinople, et un chef d'azur, chargé d'un croissant d'argent, accosté de deux étoiles d'or. — Couronne: De comte. — Supponts: Deux sauvages.



A famille DASPIT DE SAINT-AMAND est originaire du Languedoc; son nom est écrit indifféremment dans les anciennes chartes p'Aspir, p'Aspir, p'Aspir, p'Espir et p'Espy. Elle a tenu de tout temps un rang distingué parmi les familles nobles des provinces de Guienne et de Languedoc.

DASPIT DE SAINT-AMAND.

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Un grand nombre de ses membres se sont signalés par des services marquants dans l'armée et dans la magistrature.

Le nom de Daspit semble dériver de l'ancien fief d'Aspect (de Aspetto), qu'on trouve mentionné dans l'histoire d'Armagnac aux années 1320 et 1405 (de Courcelles, Histoire généalogique des pairs de France).

En 1650 un Daspit épousa l'héritière de l'ancienne famille de Saint-Amand de Toulouse; il en prit le nom et le transmit à ses descendants qui ont continué à le porter sans interruption jusqu'à nos jours.

A la suite d'un duel malheureux et d'affaires désastreuses Pierre Daspir ayant été contraint de quitter la France, prit le parti d'aller se fixer à la Louisiane, où ses descendants se sont perpétués pendant plus d'un siècle et demi.

Dans le cours de ces dernières années le chef actuel de la famille revint habiter la province, qui avait été le berceau de sa famille, et établit sa résidence à Bordeaux.

Alliés aux maisons les plus anciennes du Languedoc, les Dasrit ont fait enregistrer leurs armoiries, en 1696, à l'armorial général créé en vertu de l'édit du 20 novembre de la dite année (registre de la généralité de Toulouse et de Montauban (Manuscrit à la Bibliothèque Impériale).

La filiation qui suit, a été établie sur titres originaux conservés aux archives de la famille.

### FILIATION

#### Armonica Adegré.

1. Jean Despy ou Daspit, écuyer, était en 1496 au nombre des gentilhommes composant les cinquante lances des ordonnances du Roi, sous le commandement du capitaine Jean de la Marche (Titre original).

Il eut pour sils:

#### Deuxione Degré.

II. Belin Daspir, écuyer, que nous voyons figurer dans la montre et revue d'une compagnie de quinze hommes de guerre, ordonnancée à mortepaye, en 1517, au château de Cliffo, et commandée par Jean de Montarby (Titre original).

#### DASPIT DE SAINT-AMAND.

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Il épousa, vers 1531, noble demoiselle Catherine Ambland, dont il eut deux fils:

1" Jewin, qui suit;

2º Charles Dasrit, écuyer, né vers 1537, qui servait dans une compagnie de 57 hommes de guerre à pied pour le service du Roi, dont la montre et revue fut faite, le 3 décembre 1579, dans la ville de Ceutal (*Titre original*).

#### Troisieme Degré.

III. Jewin Daspir. écuyer, seigneur dudit lieu dans la senéchaussée de Toulouse, lit partie d'une compagnie de trente hommes des ordonnances du Roi, dont la montre et revue fut passée sous les murs de la ville de Gigon, en Armagnac, en 1574, sous les ordres du maréchal de Montlue.

Il avait éponsé, en 1588, noble demoiselle Jeanne de Mesmes qui le rendit père de trois enfants, savoir :

1" Nicolas, qui suit;

- 2º Louis Daserr, écuyer, seigneur de Valeville, qui fut gentilhomme, attaché au due d'Anjou, beau-frère du Roi; il reçut du roi Henri IV des lettres en date du 26 novembre 1603, dans lesquelles ce monarque lui promet sa protection (Titre original);
- 3º Pierre Daspit, écuyer, qui servit dans une compagnie dont la montre et revue furent passées à Montélimart, le 10 avril 1605, sous le commandement du seigneur de Neyrol.

#### Dundelième Degré.

IV. Nicolas Dasprr, seigneur dudit lieu, écuyer, né vers 1570, faisait partie d'une compagnie de vingt-cinq hommes à pied français, dont la montre et revue fut faite au château de Saint-Dizier, le 12 octobre 1603 (Titre original).

Il avait épousé vers 1601 noble demoiselle Catherine de La Broue qui lui donna un fils qui suit.

#### Cimquième Begre.

V. Frère Daspir, écuyer, seigneur dudit lieu et de Bavarlhes, magistrat et lieutenant au siège de Frontigues, commissaire député pour l'exécution des ordonnances rendues par le due d'Epernon, gouverneur de la province de Guienne pour le Roi.

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### DASPIT DE SAINT-AMAND.

Il est mentionné dans un acte du 17 avril 1637, contenant un devis de réparations à faire au château de Castelviel, près Luchon.

De son mariage, contracté en 1632, avec noble demoiselle Madeleine DE Corres, il laissa trois fils, savoir :

1º Bernard, qui suit;

2º Joseph Dasrir, écuyer, seigneur de Lucvielle, qui fit enregistrer ses armoiries dans l'Armorial général de France;

3º Jean Daspir, écuyer, qui fut conseiller au Parlement de Toulouse et maire de cette ville. Ses armoiries sont enregistrées dans l'Armorial général de France.

#### Sixieme Begré.

VI. Bernard Daspir, seigneur de Meilhan, etc., né en 1633, conseiller au parlement de Toulouse, fit enregistrer ses armoiries en 1698 dans l'Armorial général de France. Elles sont inscrites ainsi: d'or, à un pin de sinople, et un chef d'azur, chargé d'un croissant d'argent, accosté de deux étoiles d'or.

Il avait épousé, en 1662, noble demoiselle Anne de Saint-Amand, héritière de l'ancienne famille de Saint-Amand de Toulouse, dont il prit le nom. Il eut entre autres enfants:

VII. Jean Pierre Daspir, écuyer, né en 1690, qui vint habiter Paris pour y consolider sa fortune; mais après une suite d'aventures et de duels malheureux, il dut se résigner à quitter la France. En 1713 il partit pour la Louisiane, muni d'une charge de capitaine de milice, dont son père avait fait l'acquisition pour lui.

Cette belle contrée du Nouveau-Monde était alors une colonie française; la possession en était disputée avec acharnement par les tribus indigènes. Jean Pierre Daspit de Saint-Amano dut à sa grande valeur et à ses qualités militaires le commandement supérieur de la province, et investi de ce pouvoir il fut chargé d'aller défendre dans le haut Mississipi un poste fortifié, situé à une centaine de lieues de la capitale (Nouvelle-Orléans), lequel était attaqué continuellement par la tribu belliqueuse des Natchez.

Dans ces circonstances, l'an 1730, Daspir, voulant en finir et porter un grand coup aux assiégeants, marche à la tête d'un détachement français, surprend les Indiens, en extermine un grand nombre, mais il est tué, en combattant, par un chef indien.

Il avait épousé demoiselle N... Meuillon, de laquelle il eut deux fils :

1º Pierre, qui suit;

<sup>2</sup>º N... DASPIT DE SAINT-AMAND, deuver, dont le sort est ignoré.

#### DASPIT DE SAINT-AMAND.

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#### Manidacine Degre.

VIII. Pierre Daspir de Saint-Amand, né en 1725, continua d'habiter la Louisiane et y épousa, en 1758, demoiselle Marie-Anne Carmouche. De cette union est né le fils unique ci-après.

#### Menvieno Degré.

- IX. Alexandre Daspit de Saint-Amand, né le 3 février 1760, qui épousa, le 22 novembre 1787, demoiselle Marguerite Zéringue, qui le rendit père de neuf enfants, savoir :
  - 1º Joseph-Alexandre Daspit de Saint-Amand, né le 1er juin 1786, mort jeune;
  - 2º Joséphine Daspir de Saint-Amand, née le 25 décembre 1787;
  - 3º Aimée Daspit de Saint-Amand, née le 31 mars 1790;
  - 4º Agathe-Rosalie Daspir de Saint-Amand, née le 30 octobre 1793, morte sans alliance:
  - 5º Marie-Anne Daspir de Saint-Amand, mée le 8 octobre 1795, morte jeune ;
  - 6º Pierre-Geoffroy, qui continue la descendance;
  - 7° Venance Daspit de Saint-Amand, née le 22 juin 1800;
  - 8° Télesphore Daspir de Saint-Amand, né le 21 mai 1802, qui mourut saus laisser de postérité;
  - 9º Antoine Daspit de Saint-Amand, né le 15 février 1806.

### Mixième Degré.

X. Pierre-Geoffroy Daspit de Saint-Amand, né à la Louisiane le 6 mars 1798, représentant actuel de la famille épousa, au mois d'octobre 1831, mademoiselle Jeanne Marguerite Collet, née à Baltimore (Amérique du Nord).

De ce mariage sont nés trois enfants:

- 1º François-Gustave Daspir de Saint-Amand, né le 7 août 1832, à Santiago, ville de l'île de Cuba, en Amérique;
- 2" Paul-Ernest Daspit de Saint-Amand, né le 20 juin 1836, mort jeune ;
- 3º Clémence Daspir de Saint-Amand, née le 5 octobre 1843, morte en bas âge.

MAE GLORIA LACHAPELLE June 15, 1912--March 15, 1995

MAE GLORIA LACHAPELLE was born in Mamou, Louisiana June 15th, 1912 to Meo Gradenigo and Rosa Fontenot Gradenigo. In 1914 Meo and Rosa set out by train for Raywood, Texas.

One boxcar contained the animals.

The family rode in the other. Mae Gloria was 3. Mary was the baby.Older sisters included Marcella, Effie and Alma and Elvina.

With the help of Nonk Pep Arcenaux Granpa Meo & Grannie Rosa got land for planting and moved an already built house with horses and logs to the site of the old place. (Old Bee Bell had built it.) Uncle Dasilva had wanted Granpa Meo to continue working for him and did not help him at first to set up his own operation.

Moma completed 5th grade at the old Fontenot School. Aunt Theresa, Grannie's last baby, had been quite sickly and Moma quit school to help Grannie. Moma learned to write and read. She read her prayers, Bible history and catechism. She would later use her writing to communicate with Magdalene and the boys through many letters. Bill has many of her letters from the 60's detailing family events and happenings around Raywood.

Early on she worked like a boy around the farm getting up early and helping to milk the cows and do other chores. She was Granpa Meo's pet. They farmed cotton, corn, potatoes and planted a large garden. They had a orchard of pears, peaches, plums and pecans. Moma joined in the butchering and dressing of pigs & cattle. They made soap and sausage. They canned vegetables.

They also made zydeco music and danced and enjoyed themselves with their cousins and others in house dances promoted by Granpa Meo and Grannie Rosa. Moma's ability to clown and entertain and have fun certainly developed from the happy and hard-working years of her youth.

When the unbelievably handsome, hard-working resourceful Louis LaChapelle showed up in Raywood several teen hearts palpitated more rapidly. Daddy courted Cousin Ella D. and was in love with Sr. John Berchmans for a while. A beautiful, dashing 17 year old won his hand forever.

Mom and Daddy got married December 26, 1929 on a very cold day. Moma would later recall how Daddy arrived with his hat and overcoat with only a buffalo nickel in his pocket since he had lent his last \$20 to Uncle Teep. Aunt Theresa had exclaimed! "Santa Claus is out there. He wants to take me."

Three days before the wedding heavy snow and ice had tragically destroyed many of their pigs and cattle. Everyone had been scrambling to bury the remains to avoid an outbreak of disease. Aunt Elvina Verdun and Leona Bell were Mom's bridesmaids. Regile Gradney and Walter or Austin Fontenot were the grooms. Aunts Bertha, Bekoin, Bernadette, Anaise, Tante Churi (Rose) and Benjamin (Ozma's dad) were present. The great celebration was interrupted long enough to take the memorable marriage photo we still have preserved today from Cousin Amie Ozan's album.

Moma's faith and religious practises were very important to her. She was under the influence and spiritual care of the

unde Teep: new model A

Josephite Fathers all her life at all costs.

The pastor was due deep respect. But she also didn't hesitate to speak out personally to them if she disagreed about issues or actions.

Her Gradenigo and other ancestors had long championed and seriously promoted their faith as Roman Catholics. (Two Gradenigo archbishops are well known in Northern Italy.) Grannie Rosa had learned to read mostly so that she could read her daily prayers and the Bible. Mom participated intensely in church activities and was a member of the Ladies of Auxiliary since 1943.

Her faith in Jesus through the intercession of his Blessed Mother Mary was a mainstay, a solace and comfort through the miseries, pains, and griefs and joys of her lifetime. She passed this faith and her work habits on to her children and grandchildren. She was very dedicated to all of us and spent a lifetime worrying about and caring for us until it came our turn.

She was caregiver to so many. When someone was sick or dying she knew how to jump in and do what was needed including consoling the bereaved. She cried and laughed with so many sisters and brothers and nieces and nephews and children and grandchildren. She reached out her arms as far and as wide as she could and she touched many in their critical hours of joy and sorrow-births, deaths, matchups, marriages, split-ups, sicknesses. At her best she was an angel. But we know she was as human as any of us and welcomed human and heavenly forgiveness when she really blew it.

No one was a stranger to her. She was a good neighbor to all. Almost all. She practised old time hospitality. When you came to her house you could always get a meal and a lift. She gave and never thought anything about it. She was insulted if you didn't at least walk to the kitchen and smell and taste. Coffee and sweets were frequently there too in her best years. Her stories and teasing were entertaining. She was adept at describing personalities as well. She remembered family history handed down to her.

She knew she was of very mixed heritage. She was aware of being French from the Fontenots and Deculus's. She knew she was Native American. Grannie Rosa had told her of Granma Becky who had lived to be 105 years old and was clearly African American.

Paul had told her at least 12 years ago she was northern Italian by

Paul had told her at least 12 years ago she was northern Italian by none other than the illustrious Gradenigo family of Venice, one of the old patriarchal ruling families along with the Donato's and others. The German-French Krebs family of Marguerite was also a part of her ancestry.

Over the years she shared in the work surrounding the growing of cotton, corn, potatoes, cucumbers, beans and peppers. She helped with the butchering and dressing of pigs and cattle. She raised chickens, ducks, guineas and geese at different times. She canned vegetables from the garden. She quilted with friends and grannie. She did part-time house work for a while.

For fun she and Pop would go dancing or put on some dances themselves. She enjoyed bid whist and setback with Pop and others, including Mary and Torjean, Prof (Walter) and Corelia, Austin and Amay and Noe and Anna.

Mom's greatest thrills involved my ordination in Rome December

22, 1964 and my first Mass in Raywood. It was a lifelong heartbreak as well for her that the Catholic Church does not allow married clergy and forced me to resign when I married Kay, my wife of some 25 years.

Today we celebrate the passing of a life from earth to heaven. We are grateful for all of our ancestors. We express gratitude to all who helped make her life less miserable, especially in the last 10 years when she endured what she considered the worst trial of

her life, her partial-sightedness, her blindness.

"I thank God for the way I am. I think one out a million could go through whatI've been through and still be glad. I make a joke out of everything. Blindness is the hardest thing I ever went through. I always could accept hardship. I know I never was perfect. Perfect

people don't live upon earth."

We are so grateful to all our aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins, neighbors and friends, hospice workers, nurses and doctors who have cared for and loved Moma over her lifetime and especially the very tough past 10 years. I think of Aunt Mae and Bernadette, still alive and willing but under close medical watch themselves. Cecile, her sweetheart of a niece, has certainly spent more time with Mom in the nursing home than all of us probably put together and for the love she has shown our mother we way thank you. Thank you to the hundreds of others who prayed and peeped in when you had a chance. Life has been easy.

Today we celebrate Mom's eternal peace and joy with Jesus and Mary and Joseph and all who awaited her trials of purification to end. Daddy's big smile of joy and a loud "Welcome Home, Tog!" must have certainly communicated itself somehow to her. Jesus arose for us. We are saved through our faith in Him. We rest our faith in Him

and in no other. Let us praise the Lord! Allelua!

Amen! Let us love one another forever and build the future as we cherish the good of our past. (Written by Bill LaChapelle with help from Magdalene, Ray, Glo, Paul, Herman, Bob, Lucille and all who shared some of their memories of Mom.)

ETHNIC DIVERSITY: She was Italian (Gradenigo:Venice), French (Fontenot, Deculus), German (Krebs:Neumagen in Moselle Valley), native American, African American (Granma Becky:West Africa), English (Griffith & Reed). Opelousas/Mamou/ Eunice/Ville Platte area had quite a mixture of peoples early on. Our European family has been here since the 1700's. Our Gradenigo ancestors owned a 2,500 acre plantation northwest of Opelousas by the 1770's.

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# **GEORGE DAMON TESSIER**

of Natchitoches, Louisiana

His Forebears and Descendants

Evelyn T. Smith

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#### Chapter XI

#### THE GRADENIGO FORTUNE

Although most Americans (it is hoped) believe our form of government is the best in the world, many like to believe that they are descended from royalty. It is true that there are many such royal descendants, but somehow the proportion of royalty to commoners seems to have increased among those who like to brag about their ancestry. One of our cousins says, "I believe in claiming them until somebody proves there's no connection."

JUAN GRADENIGO, an Italian adventurer who settled in Louisiana in the eighteenth century, is unquestionably an ancestor of ours, but whether or not he was a nobleman and how he was related to the Doges of Venice is yet to be established. Winston DeVille, a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, has been commissioned by a client to research the Gradenigo family. Until Mr. DeVille's findings become available, we won't know for sure how valid is our family's claim to be of "royal blood." Mercedes Ray Pertuit, of Houma, Louisiana, a Gradenigo descendant, shared with us some notes made on a trip to Venice some years ago. There were three Gradenigos who were Doges of Venice between 697 and 797, she wrote, in addition to Pietre Gradenigo, elected 1280, Bartolomeo Gradenigo, elected 1339, and Giovanni Gradenigo, elected 1353. The next Doge was elected in 1356.

On July 10, 1919, the New Orleans TIMES-PICAYUNE announced in bold headlines: "WEALTH IN ITALY MAY BE OBTAINED BY LOUISIANANS."

Dallas, Tex., July 19, 1919.--Restoration of an estate worth between \$68,000,000 and \$70,000,000, held in trust by the Italian Government, which was left by a Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church and uncle of Pope Leo, to the rightful heirs, is about to be consummated, according to Mr. Felix E. Voorhies, who, as one of the direct descendants, will share in the distribution of the property.

Members of seven families descended from Juan Gradenigo--CARRIER, VOORHIES, FONTENOT, CLERMONT, LAMAURANDIERE, ROUSSEAU, and FUSELIER, had been notified some time before by Messrs. Felix E. Voorhies,

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Gabriel H. Fuselier and William J. Formento that attempts were being made to collect this vast fortune for the benefit of the numerous heirs.

The story was that the late Very Reverend Giovanni Gradenigo, Bishop of Venice, had willed to JUAN GRADENIGO of Opelousas one-third of his fortune, held in trust by the Italian government since the beginning of the 19th century. The other two-thirds had been disposed of by giving one-third to the Roman Catholic Church or the Pope, and one-third to a nephew in Florence.<sup>1</sup>

There are conflicting theories as to why Juan Gradenigo did not return to Italy to collect his inheritance. At any rate, many years after his death in 1809, members of the Voorhies and Fuselier families began to try to establish a claim to the money and to send someone to Italy to collect it from the Italian government. Letters were sent to every heir they could locate--120 of them, according to one newspaper account--asking that these heirs make voluntary contributions to a fund for that purpose.

The response was mixed. Local newspapers in the home towns of the heirs had picked up the TIMES-PICAYUNE story; some of the heirs were delighted with the publicity, others dismayed by it. Some families decided the whole thing was a hoax; others contributed as much as they could spare. The copy of a letter about the inheritance to be found in the Appendix, from G. D. Tessier to his sisters and brothers, was not the first such missive, though it is the only one of which we have a copy. Among the recipients was my mother, Grace Tessier Temme, one of the ladies of our branch of the family who were almost as ecstatic about the possibility of their being of royal blood as they were about the possibility of inheriting a vast sum of money (much as all of them needed it).

Aunt Artemize and Aunt Louise both became Countesses overnight, but Aunt Artemize, who wore the same rusty black dress summer or winter, rain or shine, tended to forget her role and lapse into her usual comfortable, garrulous character. Rose Debaillon (Aunt "Tete"), who preferred to believe that she was a Duchess, really took the inheritance seriously. Emma was Rose Debaillon's favorite among EMILIE DEBAILLON TESSIER's daughters. Rose lived with Emma's family for many years; when she died in Kansas City, Rose was living with one of Emma's granddaughters.

The Last Will and Testament of Genevieve Rosette Debaillon is a masterpiece of fiction, duly and legally prepared by an attorney who must have had tongue in cheek. In the will, Rose described herself as the "nearest living relative of Juan Giovanni Gradenigo and sole heir to his estate." She grandly bestowed upon the children of her niece, Duchess Emma [Ross] Sandlin, nee Tessier, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Letter to heirs from Gabriel E. Fuselier, New Orleans, LA, 27 Nov. 1921.

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lands of the ducal estate, the castle, and all its contents--silver plate, jewels, etc. Then she divided three-fourths of the money held in trust into six parts, one for Emma's children, and one each for Willis, Tom, Artemize, Caroline, and Louise, Emilie Debaillon's children. The remaining one-fourth of the fortune she magnanimously set aside to be divided among any other surviving heirs who could prove their heirship. A copy of this amazing document will be found in the Appendix.

Unfortunately, by August, 1924, only one-third of the heirs at law had contributed to the fund. Mr. Fuselier made one final appeal addressed, "Dear Kins:" and his letter ended: N.B.--THIS IS MOST POSITIVELY YOUR LAST CHANCE TO DO YOUR PLAIN DUTY AS HEIRS AT LAW, and will not write again. He was as good as his word; he did not write again, and if any further attempts were made to collect the money, our branch of the family never knew of them.

A story about the Gradenigo inheritance copied from an unidentified newspaper was found by Ruth Blackwood in the effects of her father, Frank Ross, who was Emma's son. The article states:

The line was established in this country in 1775 by one of the De Gradenigos who was touring the world with Humboldt, the German writer. After traveling over Europe, Africa, Asia and South Africa, he landed in Mobile, Ala. He met Miss Margaret Krebs, and married. It was a morganatic marriage, and the noble could not return to his country with his bride. He settled in Mobile.

JUAN (or JOHN) GRADENIGO was married to MARGUERITE KREBS in Mobile, Alabama on March 17, 1766, according to Mobile Catholic Church Records.<sup>2</sup> The family group sheet at the beginning of this chapter is a composite of information acquired in the author's research and that supplied by Peggy Heard, of Shreveport, a descendant of MARGUERITE KREBS' father by his second marriage.

MARGUERITE KREBS was the daughter of HUGO ERNESTUS KREBS and MARIE JOSEPHINE DE LA POINTE. JOSEPH SIMON DE LA POINTE came from France to Louisiana with D'Iberville and Bienville in 1699, was deeded some land by the French government, and homesteaded on Dauphin Island in Alabama. DE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Mobile Ch.: Mar. v. l, p. 49. Also: Vidriene, Jacqueline. *Love's Legacy*, p. 345. Lafayette, LA: Center for Louisiana Studies, Southwestern Louisiana University.

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is now the site of Pascagoula, Mississippi. Apparently DE LA POINTE moved from his Dauphin Island site to Pascagoula and started the settlement on his sister's land.

He needed some help, so he brought in a boat load of Germans in about 1730 that included HUTO ERNESTUS KREBS. KREBS married his boss's daughter, JOSEPHINE DE LA POINTE, became a surgeon and a farmer, and invented a cotton gin which was displayed before Eli Whitney invented his own version. Married twice, he had thirteen children, and many of his descendants still live in the Pascagoula-Mobile area.<sup>3</sup>

MARGUERITE and JUAN GRADENIGO settled permanently in Opelousas shortly after their marriage. GRADENIGO soon became a large landowner. One of his acquisitions was an island of almost 3,000 acres called *L'Isle a L'Angloise*, later named "Gradenigo's Island." The area lies northwest of Opelousas and just west of the St. Landry Airport, and is now called "Gradney's Island." According to a map discovered when research was conducted to determine the exact location of the old St. Landry Catholic Church, the Gradenigo claim, shown on the same map, was included in what is now the old Bertinot plantation. Allen Richard, Deputy Clerk of St. Landry Parish in Opelousas, supplied the accompanying picture of the Gradenigo Palace in Venice. He believes it appeared in a supplement to the local newspaper, the Opelousas DAILY HERALD. Mr. Richard owns five acres of land on Gradenigo Island approximately two miles from the original plantation. The old house itself has been torn down, he said.

GRADENIGO served for some years as president of the trustees of St. Landry's Church. Father Miguel Bernard Barriere, one of the priests who served the parish during Gradenigo's tenure as trustee, became his close friend and great admirer. Father Barriere recorded some of Gradenigo's history by making marginal notes on baptismal records of some of the children born to the family. Some of the certificates on which he penned his comments were written by his predecessor. One such entry is on the baptismal record of BRIGITE GRADENIGO, and another on that of Eulalia Rousseau, daughter and niece, respectively, of JUAN GRADENIGO. Copies of these records in the Appendix show the priest's notations. The first reads:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>THE JACKSON DAILY NEWS, Sunday, June 11, 1972.

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You must know, on reading the name De Gradenigo, he is of the same family, that is to say, of the family of the Senate of Venice; Don Jn. De Gradenigo is the brother among others, ambassadors and senators, of Don [blank space] Gradenigo, Canon of the City of Venice, Montilly and environs. [Several illegible words, followed by "Bordeaux."] According to my brother who corresponds with Venice, he has seen letters to Jean de Gradenigo/ In 1836 a Jean Gradenigo was Doge of Venice: hist-ecclesiastique de Henry, in 12, page 154.4

Here is a rough translation of the note on Eulalia Rouseau's record:

This respectable man had voyaged over all of Europe and both the Americas, and finally arrived at Mobile. He fell in love, sans doute, with the virtues and charms of Mademoiselle Kreps, of a German family. He married her in Mobile and settled in this country. Don Martin Duralde and I have been close friends, but are sorry never to have the answer to the mystery of his migration into Louisiana and his death in this country. He was buried March 1, 1809.<sup>5</sup>

Another interesting story is also attributed to Father Barriere by L. R. Santis, THE MORNING STAR, February 29, 1908:

A son was born to the couple [Gradenigo-Kreps] in Dec. 1781, and baptized Nov. 17, 1782. Later on the boy was sent to Venice to his kin people, where he was to acquire an education in keeping with the traditions of this illustrious family and for which there was no opportunity in the colonies. When Napoleon was sent to Egypt by the Directoire, young Juan ran away from his kin, bid adieu to the city of the lagoons and followed the Corsican adventurer into the land of the Pharaohs. There, in the burning sands at the foot of the pyramids, he is supposed to have perished. No news ever reached the anxiously waiting parents in the far away post of the Opelousas. 6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>St. Landry Church Records, 4-90.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>From a typed copy submitted by Mercedes Ray Pertuit, Houma, LA.

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Several of the couple's children died in infancy; eight grew to adulthood. There were three sons, Joseph, Augustin, and Hilaire, and five daughters, Marie, Marguerite, Louise, Aimee, and BRIGITE.

Like JUAN GRADENIGO, his sons were respected members of the community and active in civic affairs. Joseph, the eldest, was engaged in farming; the 1860 Slave Census of St. Landry Parish showed he was the owner of 20 slaves.<sup>7</sup>

Augustin married Elizabeth Monchervaux Clermont in 1796<sup>8</sup> and became the father of at least seven children. He served several terms as a magistrate of St. Landry Parish and seems to have spent a lot of time at the courthouse; his name appears on numerous old documents. After the death of Elizabeth Clermont in 1821, Augustin married Genevieve Jacques Fontenot, widow of his friend Baptiste Riviere.<sup>9</sup> Though only in his forties, Augustine died the following year.

JUAN GRADENIGO's will, written in French in his own hand, was filed in the St. Landry Parish Courthouse in Opelousas. At the time we did our research there, his succession, though shown on the index, could not be found. He was 80 years old when he died. Mercedes Ray Pertuit supplied a resume of his will, which was written in his own hand, in French, on September 6, 1806. He left all his goods to his "chere epouze Margaret Krebs" and begged his children and kin to "have full regard for her, for she was at all times a good and tender mother."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>1860 St. Landry Slave Census, *Louisiana Genealogical Register*, Vol. XVI, p. 245 et seq.

<sup>8</sup>St. Landry's Church Records, 1-66.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>St. Landry's Church, 1-402A. Also St. Landry Parish Marr. #54.

## Baptismal Record BRIGIDA | BRIGITE | GRADENIGO

Showing marginal notations by Father Barriere

On the 17th day of the month of January in the year 1789, I, Joseph de Arazema, priest of the parish of Opelousas in the Province of Louisiana [sent?] from Havana, baptized [several words illegible] Brigida, who was born the 8th day of March of the year 1787, legitimate daughter of Don Juan Gradenigo, majordomo of the family, of this parish, and of Dona Marguerite Kreps, his wife. Her godfather is Don Nicolas Rousseau, officer of Cavalry, his son-in-law, and the godmother is Dona Maria Gradenigo, upon whom falls the obligation of teaching the child Christian doctrine, and therefore have signed and promised with me the day, month, and year cited.

s/Gradenigo s/N. Rousseau s/Joseph de Arazema
Priest
St. Landry's Church Records, V. 4, p. 90

Such demander for a service of the s

XI-a

## LETTER FROM DAMON TESSIER TO HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS CONCERNING GRADENIGO ESTATE

San Antonio, Texas Nov. 25th, 1921

Mrs. Johanna Emily Tessier Bueche P.O. Box 199 Palestine. Texas

Mrs. Marguerite Mithilda Tessier Carpenter Claypoole, Arizona

Mrs. Noamie Clara Tessier Dawe c/o Nat'l City Bank of New York Sao Paula Brazil, Sou America Mr. Lawrence Sibert Tessier San Antonio Mr. Rowland Louis Tessier " Miss Evelyn Anna Tessier "

Miss Maymie Elsie Tessier

Mr. Dewey Adolph Tessier c/o American Ry. Express Co. Globe, Arizona

Mrs. Grace Louise Tessier Temme P. O. Box 45 Jerome, Arizona

Dear Sister and Brothers:-

From time to time you have had excerpts from letters to papa, from his relatives regarding the Will of the late Rev. Giovanni Gradenigo, Bishop of Venice. To-day I am enclosing a letter which covers the subject from its first revival to-date.

It is time-- that we were taking some steps toward helping papa, handle his end of this will, which is the very thing that he wants us to do but he has been handicapped in various ways. You well know that his education was limited and now that he is growing old, it is a little harder for him to express himself in writing, than it was some years ago. Verbaly he can hold his own, but little this helps in a case of this kind, since he had not had the opportunity to get us all to-gether.

Now-- you might wonder where I get all my information. Well, when I drove papa to the railroad station the night that he embarked for Asarco, Dgo. Mexico, he told me, all the in's and out's of the estate and gave me his last letters from Mr. Voorhies, and requested that I keep in line with any news regarding the subject and it is to that end that I am writing.

Papa estimated that about one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) U.S. Cy. would be our portion of the (\$2,000.00) or a fair amount to send to Mr. Voorhies. (Naomie, Lawrence and myself have all been to Dallas and have read letters to Mr. Voorhies and have seen the family tree. Mr. Voorhies is a well read gentleman, Poor like ourselves) Papa wants us all to help him subscribe this amount, for you know that he has not much money, or he would not be away down in the jungles of Mexico working for the paltry salary of \$150.00 per

month to help keep the little ones that are here going to school. There, he has a soft job, physically. He would still be here in San Antonio, but hard work nearly killed him, and besides he is too old to keep pace, that the younger men here would lead. It would mean only (\$15.00) each. I will lend Rowland and Evelyn theirs. You are aware that papas share will be approximately four millions (\$4,000,000.00) and it is his intention to share this amount equally among the ten of us children, mamma and himself, as soon as the money comes into his possession. Make your checks payable to Mr. John W. M. Tessier, which is papas Catholic Church name and the sooner we remit the better, as it will take some time for the final information to come to us on the subject.

I believe that the letter that I am sending you a copy of thoroughly covers the subject, therefore I have no further comments to make.

Mama has full knowledge of this correspondence and heartily agrees to the plan.

Papa is planning on coming home for Xmas, and if agreeable to him we will make the trip to New Orleans and deliver the money in person to the proper authority. And if Necessary employ the services of the best attorneys in that City.

I personally, believe that our relatives are on the square and we do not face any skin game whatsoever.

I have this day sent money for copies of the periodicals mentioned in Mr. LFuselier's letter. Furthermore, if any of you have any doubts as to the veracity of your fathers statements or information that he might pass on to you, address your inquiries to his relatives, HOWEVER, I suggest, that you obtain all your information thru him, or advise him of any personal actions on your part.

Hoping that you all see this in the same light that we here at home do, with kindest regards to all, I beg to remain,

Affectionately Your Brother,

418 River Avenue

/s/ G. D. Tessier

P.S. Now, Sales Manager,- Texas Motor Specialties Co.

C.C. Mr. J. W. M. Tessier c/o Am. Smelting and Sec. Co. Asarco, Durango, Mexico.-

[The above is a true copy of the copy of this letter received by Marguerite Tessier Carpenter. Misspellings have not been corrected. E.T.S.)

### LETTER FROM G. H. FUSELIER TO "DEAR KINS"

New Orleans, La., August 1, 1924

Dear Kins:--R E:

Succession of late Signor Giovanni Gradenigo, of Opelousas, La., died 1809, and Will of Very Rev. Giovanni Gradenigo, Archbishop, Venice, Italy, whereby his Vast Estate from the Doges of Venice was disposed of by willing one-third to the Roman Catholic Church, one-third to a Nephew in Florence, Italy, and one-third to our Ancestor and his Nephew Signor Giovanni Gradenigo, of Opelousas, La., with the provision that said last third was to be held in Trust by the Italian Government until legally claimed by his (the Archbishop's and our Ancestor's) heirs-at-law.

### THIS LETTER IS TO INFORM YOU t h a t:--

Mr. A. Badessi Alberti has been appointed our lawyer by our Administrator Mr. Felix E. Voorhies and is now in Italy with full Power of Attorney, making a thorough investigation before taking any and all legal steps to recover our rights; that the Expense Fund for our Lawyer in this Matter after several years of solicitation amounted to less than the amount required of which you were informed and was contributed to by only one-third of the heirs-at-law whose named and addresses we have been able to locate from our Family Tree; that with the authority of Mr. Felix E. Voorhies, our Administrator, and Mr. A. Badessi Alberti, our Lawyer, I have been authorized to appeal to you again by means of this fac-simile letter to make your voluntary contribution to the Expense Fund of our said Lawyer for a small amount that you en spare according to your means, no matter how small or large, by remitting same to me, in my name as Representative in New Orleans of the Administrator and Attorney, by P. O. Money Order, Registered Letter or Check, on your Bank, whichever way most convenient, inasmuch as you have not done so to date and our Lawyer is now in Italy, that

Mr. A. Badessi Alberti is a graduated Lawyer of Rome allowed to practice in all Courts of Italy, a graduated lawyer also of International Law under the foremost Professor of International Law of Italy, who is a friend of his, is connected with the Bank of Italy, with many Branches in italy and America, and lately connected with the International Branch, Los Angeles, Cal., a California branch of said Institution of Italy, whose head in Italy to-day is the foremost Italian Lawyer of Italy, and of International Law and a friend who will probably assist him as the most experienced and influential Lawyer of Italy, and that our Lawyer's (Mr. A. Badessi Alberti) trip from California to New York, from New York to Italy and in Italy, alone, will cost him more than \$1,000.00, including his living expenses and incidentals; THEREFORE, you can readily understand that a much larger amount than the amount we have been able to collect

so far for his Expense Fund is most essential and absolutely required, in order that he may be able to carry out most effectively his vast undertaking in all repects with the vast sum involved of over \$70,000,000.00 against the Italian Government, as we understand the Matter.

After you have considered the premises carefully as an heir-at-law, WE trust to receive your prompt contribution as expected of you and instructed, and are

Very faithfully yours,

(Signed)

G. H. Fuselier, Vol'ry Asst. to Administrators, Representative of Mr. A. Badessi Alberti, Lawyer and Mr. Felix E. Voorhies, Administrator.

P. S.--Please address me:--Gabriel H. Fuselier, 1555 N. Dorgenois St., New Orleans, La.

N.B.--THIS IS MOST POSITIVELY YOUR LAST CHANCE TO DO YOUR PLAIN DUTY AS HEIRS-AT-LAW, and will not write again. You promised to locate Mr. Paul Ray and do what you could, but have not heard from you but once in several. . .[page ends]

## Copy of Notice in Times-Picayune of July 20, 1919

Wealth in Italy May Be Obtained by Louisianians.

Dallas, Texas, Resident Says Estate of \$68,000,000.00 Will Be Divided.

Traces Ancestry to the Doges of Venice.

JOE MeDONALD, OF LAKE CHARLES, AMONG MANY TO GET FORTUNE.

Dallas, Tex., July 19, 1919.—Restoration of an estate worth between \$68,000,00,00 and \$70,000,000,00, held in trust by the Italian Government, which was left by a Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church and uncles of Pope Leo, to the rightful heirs, it about to be consummated, according to Mr. Filix E. Voorhies, who, as one of the direct descendants, will—are in the distribution of the property. Mr. Voorhies' wife, rs a direct descendant for the property of the control of the property of the property of the property of the property of the control of the property of the catholic of the control of the property of the catholic of the cat

Mr. Voorhies has lived in Dallas for a number of years, and was, for eleven year'; traveling salesman and head of the Cotton Oil Machinery Department of the Briggs-Weaver Machinery Co., of this city.

#### WORK NEAR FINISHED.

Mr. Voorhies has been appointed Administrator of the estate by the heirs, and has been for several months at work on tracing lineal descendants, constructing family trees, and otherw e preparing to establish the various claims. This work is now about completed, Mr. Voorhies says. In gall ering information he has nade trip: \*o Mobile, New Orleans, take Charles, Opelousas, Baton Rouge has dug into the real archives and parish records and uncarthed many old papers. In establishing proof of birth, marriage or death of the various claimants.

In this research Mr. Voorbies has established his proof that he and his wife are both descended from royal blood, and he traced the family to the days of the Dogos of Venice, when PIETRO GRADENIGO ruled the Venetians from 1289 to 1310. He has consulted family trees showing the various hearness of the family to share in this vast fortune, and can bace each lineal line as far back as the thirteenth century.

There are seven branches of the family to share in the estate, Mr. Voorbies says, all descended from Giovanni Gradenigo, who died in Opelones in 1809, leaving seven children, as follows:

GO, who married AMELIE FUSELIER; LESE GRADENIGO, who married LOUIS CARRIERE; MARGUERITE GRADENIGO, who married ETIENNE LAMAURANDIERE; AUGUSTIN GR VDENIGO, who married ETIZABETH CLERMONT; BRIGITE GRADENIGO, who married LOUIS FONTEN OT; AIMIE GRADENIGO, who married CORNELIUS VOORHIES; and MARIE GRADENIGO, who married NaCHOLAS ROUSSEAU.

### OPELOUSAS MAN SHARES.

Mr. Voorhies has established a lineal connection from the GRADENIGOS who rived Venice in the days of the Doges of VENICE to the GICVANNI GRADENIGO, of Opelousas, La. Four GRADENIGOS were Doges of VENICE. The first, PIETRO GRADENIGO, ruled from 1289 to 1310. The others later; and it is the estate of these Veneticu Rulers that is now to be divided.

In the early nineteenth or latter part of the eighteenth century, the late Very Rev. GIOVANNI GRADENIGO, who was a Bishop of the Church of St. Mark's, in Venice, died in Venice. He had an estate at that time worth in value of to-day of \$70,000,000.00. THIS ESTATE, BY THE TERMS OF HIS WILL, a copy of which was forwarded to this country and is on record at Opelousas, La., was divided into three parts, One-third was left to the Roman Catholic Church, one-third to a nephew in Florence, Italy; and the other one-third to GIOVANNI GRADENIGO, a nephew, who resided at Opelousas, La. It is this one-third of the original GRADENIGO ESTATE that is now to be divided among the 120 heirs. UNDER THE TERMS OF THIS WILL, THIS ESTATE WAS LEFT IN TRUSST WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT UNTIL CLAIMED BY THE HEIRS; and do ing these years it has been growing, and is now estimated to be worth at least \$68,000,000.00. At one time the heirs designated Cornelius Voorhies, one of the sons-in-law of GIOVANNI GRADENIGO, of Opelousas, La., and an ancestor of Mr. F. E. Voorhies, of Dallas, to go to Venice and establish claim to the estate. One condition was imposed: that he go alone, leaving his bride of a few months in this country. Being wearthy, owning large sugar plantations and hundreds of slaves, Cornelius Voorhies says the heirs all along have known of the estate and discussed taking steps to establish their claim; but that, not until a few months ago, when he was designated as Administrator to represent all the heirs, was any definite action taken.

ARTICLES FROM LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN, NEWSPAPERS

## ITALIAN ESTATE OF MANY MILLIONS MAY MAKE A LA CROSSE MAN VERY RICH

## FRANK ROSS ONE OF THE HEIRS IF **CLAIM IS PROVEN**

Declines to Discuss Matter When Report is Received that Some Money Has Been Paid

### HIS MOTHER IS DIRECT HEIR OF COUNT DEAD MANY YEARS

Claim Pending Two Generations May Yield Fruit Soon

F. T. ROSS, a telegraph operator at the north side Milwaukee railroad

the north side Milwaukee railroad depot, living at 925 Ferry street, may share in a \$68,000,000 Italian estate according to word received today from Kansas City.

Mr. Ross's mother, Mrs. A. P. Houston of Miami, Arizona, is one of the direct heirs to a huge estate left by Count DeGradnego in Italy at his death over thirty years ago, according to the story which comes from Kansas City.

That the claim to the estate by representatives of seven branches of the family in America has been established after a year of litigation and somo money has already been received by the administrated of the estate in this country, and deposited in a bank at Dallas. Texas, is the report featived here today.

Takes News Calmiy

Takes News Calmly

Mr. Ross when seen by a represen-tative of the Tribune and Leader-Press, declined to discuss the matter. He did not seem disposed to become excited over the report that he might soon be a rich man, but on the con-trary treated the story in a sensible manner, and politely refused to be interviewed.

According to the story which comes. According to the story which comes. from Kansas City, descendants of Count DeGradnego in this country have for two generations been waiting for the distribution of the estate, held all this time by the Italian government for some reason unknown

A year ago members of various branches of the family got together and arranged with F. H. Voorhees of and arranged with F. H. Voorhees of Dallas, Texas, one of the heirs, to press the claim in Italy and attempt to bring about a division of the estate. Counsel was engaged and govern-ment officials asked to use their in-fluence to bring about an adjustment to the end that the claims of heirs in this country might be satisfied.

### Is Direct Helr

Mrs. Houston mother of Mr. Ross, is a great grand-daughter or great, great grand-daughter of Count De Gradnego, it is said. She is of French-Italian descent.

With seven branches of the family in this country, it is probable there are dozens of heirs to share in the estate if the claim has been established, as now reported.

## BADGER TO CUT IN \$68,000,000

Italian Government Makes Payment to Heirs in America.

By Special Correspondent.

By Special Correspondent.

LA CROSSE, Wis.—Frank T. Ross, a telegraph operator at the North Side station of the Milwaukee road, may share in a \$68,000,000 Italian estate, according to word received by Mr. Ross.

Mr. Ross's mother, Mrs. A. P. Houston of Miami, Ariz., is one of the direct heirs of the estate left by Count. de Gradnego in Italy at his death more than 30 years ago. The estate has been in litigation for more than two generations, being held by the Italian government.

There are seven branches of the family in the United States and that their claim has been established and that some money has already been received by the administrator of the estate in this country is the story that comes to Mr. Ross.

A year ago members of the family, after a conference, arranged with f. H. Vorhees, or Iballas, Tex., one of the heirs, to press the claim in Italy and attempt to bring a division of the estate.

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### ARTICLE FROM DALLAS, TEXAS, NEWSPAPER

# ATTORNEY RETAINED TO GO TO ITALY TO COLLECT FOR HEIRS

Fractive to Demand of Government Estate Left in Trust at Death of Noble in 1832

TO DIVIDE SIXTY MILLIONS

Pupe Benedict is One of Family and Has Coffected His Share

Tribund and Leader-Press.—
hindred and twenty American
hindred and twenty American
fittens, among them F. T. Ross of
Chosse, have established their
hin to the De Gradenigo estate of
Sec. 200° and the Italian governtent has appointed F. E. Voorhees of
like administrator for the Amerien heir All heirs have been notition family is raising a fund to
thus the expenses of a layrer to go
the for the estate, which is divided
to present claims for the legthe estate, which is divided
to present claims for the legthe tribunches of the pe Gradtribunches of the family who was a
to rose to beach for and a direct
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The estate, which is divided sixen brancher of the De Grad-turff, was left in trust in 1832 to head of the family who was a traveler at head for the family who was a traveler at head for the Roman of Family.

Beneficially head of the Roman of the Roman of the family and has increased at the family at the family and has increased at the family at the fami

that the strain was being true to the control of the strain was being true to the tendents' been couldnessed. The best of the strain heirs are not members of the strain the state have been tive in assuming in the establishment of the strain of the fortune.

The strain of the fortune of the strain of the strai

City, great aunt of P. T. Ross of La Crosse, is also an heir to the estate. Herelaims have been established sufficiently to know that she has one, but the exact amount of what she will receive has not been determined, Mr. Voorhees said. She may receive \$5,000,000 or more. William J. Formente, a lawyer of New Orleans, La., one of the heirs to the estate, has been retained by Mr. Voorhees to go to output the estate.

A representative has been employed in that country, but no satisfactory results have been obtained through his efforts, Mr. Voorhees announced, and Mr. Formento has been employed in hopes that the matter can be additionally within a short time.

Mr. Voorhees explained that the

Mr. Voorhees explained that the reason he employed Formento was that he could speak the Italian language fluently, had relatives living in Italy who might be of service in retting the claims before the proper authorities and chiefly because he was whally interested in seeing the matter, settled.

the administrator also expressed the belief that collecting the money would be no easy matter, as all overtures that had been made to the Iralian government had met with a cold reception.

Estate in Good Shape

The Italian government is keeping, and the money at good use, as it had doubled stell since being taken over by the systemment. The sum of \$1,000,000 the spent in repairing the castle at the about three years are, according to advices recaved by the administrator.

The line was established in this country in 1775 by one of the Debridge of the Debridge of the Debridge of the Debridge of the Cerman witter. After traveling over Europe, Africa, As a and South Africa, he landed in Mohle, Ala. He met Miss Margaret Riebs, and married. It was a morganic marriage, and the noble could not return to his country with his bride. He settled in Mohle, and it was one of his daughters who Cornellia Van Voorbees, the great great-grandfather of the present administrator, married in Louisans in 1838. Among the heirs are Joseph McDendid of Lake Charles, La., a builder whose share is estimated at several million dollars, there being fewer describants of his branch of the family. F. E. Voorbees of Dallas is also a member, and his wife is a member of another branch. Their shares are estimated at \$800,000 each. They have six children all living at hone, theore one is married, the wife of J.

F. Metcalfe, connected with Sea Rochuck & Co. Mr. Voorbees has a brother, W.

Mr. Voorhees has a brother, W. Voorhees, vice president of the Ci National bank of New York, who now in Spain, establishing branch of his financial institutions. If becomes necessary he will go to Rom and collect that portion of the estabelonging to his branch of the far ily. Veorhees may go to Rome in few months, though he has no action do so, unless it becomes impertive, which he does not consider proable.

Family Line Traced

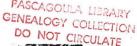
He has a family chart in which h
forfathers are accurately traced fro
1600 down to the present time. The
is not a missing link and lawyers we
have worked it out assert that if
claim is perfect. The find is he
in trust by the Italian governmented the provisions of an old slate
which provides that all estates shou
be held in trust by the governmental such fine as all heirs thorous
ly established their claims. A nur
her have already established the
claims and received their apportion
ment, among these being Pope Ben
clet, XV.

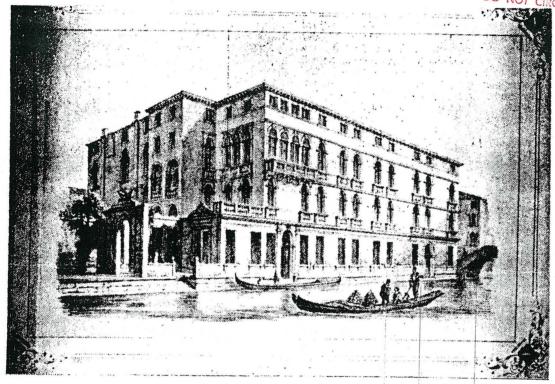
Voorhees is a direct descendant of Voorhees is a direct descendant of European nobility on both sides. It paternal ancestors were Hollande who married into the De Gradeni, family centuries ago. He is no working on a cotton seed linter pater which he is confident will in itself in him a fortune. He has lived in Da las for twelve years. All of his life his been spent in hard work as a maching and mechanical superintenden and he declares that he has no interior of quitting work when he received his inheritance.

The family comes from the Frenc portion of Louisiana, Voorhees havin been born and reared in New Orlean The family still retuins the famet hospitality of that section, and get uine French coffee, the pride of Mr Voorhees, is served to all guest French is the leading language spot en in the home, though both Voorhee

and his wife speak English fluently.

Just as soon as the fund is raise by all heirs and the meney turner over to Mr. Voorhees at Dallas, an rangements will be made to send M formento over with instructions a stay until the matter is closed up. think that it is going to be like pulling eye teeth to ever get the mone out of Italy, and we will have to us every leverage possible, but in view of the fact that every heir has definitel established his or her claims and the government has already paid out par of the estate, I think that we will finally come into our own, and I hop that that will be soon." Mr. Voorhee said.





### GRADENIGO PALACE IN VENICE

One of the first places that a tourist visiting Venice will go is to the Royal Doge Palace on St. Mark's Square. . . The original structure was destroyed by fire and had to be rebuilt several times. . . The magnificent facade is at once imposing yet light and airy with its pink and gold tones and its ornate edging which projects across the top giving the appearance of fine lace.

It was in this world of such beauty and history that one particularly adventurous and noble Venetian began to suffer the pangs of wanderlust. The young traveler was a member of one of the most illustrious and important families in all of venice. . . One of this great families' claims to fame lay in the fact that it had produced at least three doges, fourteen procurators, two cardinals and countless diplomats and soldiers.

It was from this important family and house in the 1700's that Jean de Gradenigo came to make a new home in St. Landry Parish.

(According to the unknown author of the account from which the above paragraphs have been quoted, the picture of the palace was loaned to him by attorney John D. Edwards, who traced his family ties back to the Gradenigos through his paternal grandmother, who was a Voorhies.)

### Family Group Sheet JUAN (GIOVANNI) GRADENIGO

HUSB: _GRADENIGO, Juan Gio	vanni						
Born: Ca 1729_Place:	Venice, , It	aly					
Chr: Place:							
Marr: 17 Mar 1766 Place: Mobile, Alabama							
Died: 1 Mar 1809 Place:	Opelousas, S	t. Landry, LA					
Bur: Place:	,						
Bur:Place:Place:Prace:	ρ	Moth	er: CRTTIO	Marie	Anne		
Wives:	·		CICBIIIO,	ndiic	Aut		
		<b>A</b>					
WIFR: KRRPS Margaret		7					
WIFE: KRBPS, Margaret Born: Ca 1749 Place:	Germany	11.					
Chr:Place:	C, Oct.mani-	<del>)</del>					
Died: Ca 1820 Place:	Onelouses	t Landry IA		į,			
Bur:Place:	_opciousus, s	t bandry, bh_					
Pathor.		Wath					
Father:			er.				
Husbands:							
I I CUII DAPU	I UNDA DODA	1	HILDD DVDN	- 13	AL MADDIEN   UNDER OTEN		
	WHEN BORN		WHERE BORN		ist MARRIED   WHEN DIED		
SURNAME, Given Names	INA HUN IBAK	I TOWN					
1 GRADBNIGO,	1		!!!	3.00	30 Dec 1786		
F _Francisca Marie		!	!!		ROUSSBAU, Nicholas		
2 GRADENIGO,			!!!		1 Feb 1796		
P _Marguerite			!!		DE LAMAURANDIERE, Etiennel		
3 GRADENIGO,	Ca 1765	l	1 1	1.			
M _Joseph	1				BARRE, Amelia		
4 GRADENIGO,	Ca 1773	Opelousas	ist. Li	LA	111 Dec 1787		
N _Jean			اا				
5 GRADENIGO,	Jun 1776	Opelousas	Ist. LI		7 Aug 1796		
M _Augustin					LERMONT, Blizabeth Monche		
6 GRADENIGO,	May 1779	Opelousas	St. L		7 Jan 1796_ 15 Feb 1865_		
F _Louise "Lese"	l		11	10	ARRIER, Louis		
71GRADENIGO,	Feb 1780	Opelousas	St. L		2 Aug 1803		
F _Aimee	1		1 1	I V	OORHIBS, Cornelius		
8 GRADENIGO,	Dec 1782	Opelousas	St. L				
MI_Antoine Donato	1 1		1 1	1			
9 GRADENIGO,	3 Jan 1784	Opelousas	Opelo	LA I	8 Feb 1810		
M _Hillaire	l i				USELIER, Amelie Aurore		
10 GRADENIGO,	8 Mar 1787	Opelousas	ISt. LII		1 Jan 1808   ca 1843		
P _Brigite	i i				ONTENOT, Louis Maximilien		
11 GRADENIGO,	1790	Opelousas	St. LI		13 Apr 1801_		
MI_George	ii	-	i				
	··		OTHER P		ES		
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State Governors of Louisiana: Jacques Dupre

Page 1 of 3

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! Contact Encyclopedia Louisiana ?

## **Governor Jacques Dupre**



### Jacques Dupre,1773-1846

1773	Born in New Orleans, eldest son of Laurent
February	Dupre di Terrebonne and Marie Josephe
12	Fontenot, residing in St. Landry Parish.
1783	Father dies, mother remarries a rich rancher.
1791	Dupre and his brothers receive royal Spanish grants on Bayou Boeuf.
1792	Marries Theotoste Roy of Pointe Coupee in
May 19	Opelousas. They will have seven children.
1810	Becomes a successful cattleman on a ranch northwest of Opelousas.
<u>1815</u>	Serves as a Major in the 16th Regiment of the Louisiana Militia at the Battle of New Orleans. Two of his sons also serve.
1816	Elected to the Louisiana House and is reelected in 1822 and 1824.
1828	Elected to the Louisiana Senate.
1830	Elected as President of the State Senate over
January 14	Armand Beauvais and assumes governor's seat to finish the remainder of Derbigny's

State Governors of Louisiana: Jacques Dupre

Page 2 of 3

term.

The dispute over who succeeds the governor in case of his death will be solved when the office of Lt. Governor is created by a new constitution in 1845.

As governor Dupré oversees the incorporation of the first railroad, a canal company and a bayou improvement company, the Merchant's Insurance Company of New Orleans and a company to granulate sugar by a new process. During his administration there is also a prohibition of further immigration of free persons of color into the state and the expulsion of all those who entered since 1825.

Also in 1830 the seat of government returns to New Orleans from Donaldsonville.

- Resigns as President of the Senate, but will serve 16 more years in the State Senate.
- Serves as a Whig (anti-Jacksonian) elector in the Presidential contest of 1832. He will repeat this job in 1836, 1840, 1844.
- 1846 Dies and is buried in Opelousas. September

14

Please watch this space for more information in the future

Return to Top						

- GAUTHREAUX (Sometimes: GAUTEREAU, GOLTREAUX, GOTREAU)
- GAUTHREAUX, Adolphe (Alexandre & Euphemie LEBLANC) m. 20 Dec. 1853 Laure LA MORANDIERE (Opel, Ch.: v. B, # 36)
- GAUTHREAUX, Mrs. Alexandre d. 17 March 1850 at age 34 yrs. (Laf. Ch.: v. 4, p. 22)
- GAUTHREAUX, Aurelia (Pierre & Louise ANGEL) b. 10 March 1850 (BB Ch.: v. 1, p. 35)
- GAUTHREAUX, Eugenie (Pierre & Elogie ANGEL) b. 20 Jan. 1852 (SM Ch.: v. 9, #74)
- GAUTHREAUX, Felonise m. Lufroy AUCOIN In Succ. of Lufroy AUCOIN dated 1 June 1848 (Frank, Ct. Hse.: Succ. # 644)
- GAUTHREAUX, Genevieve (Seraphin & Azelie LANDRY) b. 8 Feb. 1854 (NI Ch.: v. 1, p. 185)
- GAUTHREAUX, Joseph Adolphe m. 2 Dec. 1853 Laure LAMORANDIER (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. # 1130)
- GAUTHREAUX, Marie Eugenie (Joseph & Aselina RICHARD) b. 17 Aug. 1853 (CP Ch.: v. 1, p. 12)
- GAUTHREAUX, Marie Leontine (Seraphin & Marie Louise Azelie LANDRY) b. 19 May 1852 (SM Ch.: v. 9, # 89)
- GAUTHREAUX, Onezime 30 yrs. old (d. Jerome & Sophie DUGAT) m. 12 Sept. 1853 Azenaise DUGAT, 18 yrs. old (Laf. Ch.: v. 4, p. 89)
- CAUTHREAUX, Valiere m. Arsene CORMIER In Succ. of Arsene CORMIER dated 5 Oct. 1848 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. # 1193)

#### GAUTIER (Sometimes: GAULTHIER, GAULTIER)

- GAUTIER, Angele (Charles & Marie LEBERT) b. 5 June 1853 (SM Ch.: v. 9, # 33)
- GAUTIER, Aurelie 17 yrs. old (Charles & Marcellite CORMIER) m. 14 Aug. 1848 Charles ST. GERMAIN, 30 yrs. old (SM Ch.: v. 8, # 357)
- GAUTIER, Aurelien (Charles) d. 3 April 1849 (SM Ch.: v. 5, p. 184)
- GAUTIER, Francois Succ. dated 17 June 1850 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. # 648)
- GAUTIER, Francois of France d.13 June 1850 at age 36 yrs. (Laf. Ch.: v. 4, p. 22)
- GAUTIER, Josephine fille adoptive (Amedee & Estelle LANDRU) bt. 4 Aug. 1868 at age 15 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 11 B. p. 92)
- GAUTIER, Josette m. Pierre GUTRICHE In Succ. of Pierre GUTRICHE dated 23 April 1853 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. # 1366)
- GAUTIER, Louis Charles (Charles & Marie HEBERT) b. 16 Dec. 1850 (SM Ch.: v. 9, #77)
- GAUTIER, Marie Laperte (Charles & Marie LEBERT) b. 12 March 1848 (SM Ch.: v. 9, # 104)
- GAY, D. D. Succ. dated 25 May 1850 (Frank, Ct. Hse. : Succ. # 713)
- GAY, Emile Succ. dated 26 Dec. 1851 (Frank. Ct. Hse.: Succ. # 754)
- GAY, Felicia (Jean) d. 17 July 1850 at age 5 yrs. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 83)
- GAY, Jean Baptiste (Jean & Adelphine SAVOIE) b. 3 Nov. 1848; bt. 23 May 1866 (CP Ch.: v. 1, p. 85-b)
- GAY, Marie Azelima (Jean & Adelphine SAVOIE) b. 30 Aug. 1850; bt. 23 May 1866 (CP Ch.: v. 1, p. 85-b)
- GEHURN, Elisa m. 12 Dec. 1853 Samuel SANDERS (Opel. Ch.: v. 2, p. 297)

- GEHURN, Liza m. 8 Dec. 1853 Samuel S. LANDERS (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #
- GEIGER, Alfred (Frederick & Marianne FELLROTH) b. 21 Sept. 1854 (Opel. Ch.: v. 5, p. 84)
- GEIGER, Amelia (Frederick) d. 25 July 1849 (Opel. Ch.: v. 2, p. 54)
- GEIGER, Coranie (Frederick & Anna Maria FELLERUTH) b. 7 Dec. 1848 (Opel. Ch.: v. 4, p. 369)
- GEIGER, Emelie Octavie (Frederick & Anna Maria FELLERUTHE) b. 26 Feb. 1851 (Opel, Ch.: v. 4, p. 369)
- GEIGER, Frederick m. Marianne FEBRATH Succ. dated 20 Nov. 1854 (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Succ. # 1870)
- GEIGER, Marie Melanie (Frederick & Anna Maria FELLORATH) b. 15 Aug. 1852 (Opel. Ch.: v. 4, p. 407)
- GEIGER, Philippe (Frederick) d. 5 May 1849 (Opel. Ch.: v. 2, p. 54)
- GEIN, Joseph (Illeges & Magdeleine DOMINQUE) bt. 19 Aug. 1855 at age 2 yrs. (Laf. Ch.: v. 6, #95)
- GELVIN, John T. m. 8 Sept. 1853 Amelia S. MAXWELL (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. # 1109)
- GELVIN, Marie Isabelle (John C. & Emilia MAXWELL) b. 25 July 1854 (Opel. Ch.: v. 5, p. 111)
- GENGE ON, Sophie a minor Parents are deceased and she wants to marry Senjamin L. COLES. Succ. dated 19 Feb. 1852 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #
- GENIN, Charles F. Succ. dated 28 April 1848 (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Succ. # 1374)
  - GENIN, Emilie (Francois & Marguerite GRADENIGO) m. 27 Dec. 1854

    Maximillien KENNISON (Opel. Ch.: v. C-1, # 28)
  - GENIN, Emilie m. 23 Dec. 1854 Maximilien KENESSON (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. # 1243)
  - GENINGERO, Elisabeth (Paul & Henriette WOOD) bt. 7 Feb. 1867 at age 13 yrs. (Opel. Ch.: v. 6, p. 240)
  - GEORGE h. d. c. l. m. 21 Jan. 1851 MARIE, f. d. c. l. (SM Ct. Hse.: Mar. Bk. 1, # 1252)
  - GEORGES c. l. (Zilia AEREDER) b. 2 Nov. 1854 (SM Ch.: v. 10, # 825)
  - GEORGES, Edouard Joseph (Edouard & Sylvanie ROCHAN) b. 20 March 1853 (SM Ch.: v. 9, #60)
  - GEORGE, Floreville (Edouard) b. 23 Nov. 1848 (SM Ch.: v. 9, # 20)
  - GEORGER, Joachim Numa (Edouard & Sylvanie NAVARRE) b. 23 Dec. 1850 (SM Ch.: v. 9, # 76)
  - GEORGE, Lucille Magdaleine (Gary) d. 30 March 1848 at age 1 yr. (SM Ch.: v. 5, p. 174)
  - GERBEAU, --- m. Catherine ROCK In Succ. of Catherine ROCK dated 8 Nov. 1852 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. # 1339)
  - GERGENSON, Sophia m. 19 Feb. 1852 Benjamin L. COLES (SM Ct. Hse.: Mar. Bk. 1, #83)
  - GERMAIN, Albert (Zulles & Marie E. LASSAGE) b. 27 Sept. 1853 (Opel. Ch.: v. 4, p. 419)
  - GERMAINDERE, Marie Roche d. 2 Nov. 1852 at age 54 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 5, p. 216)
  - GESSON, Bazelite m. 12 June 1850 Francois Etienne BOUVET (Opel. Ct. Hse. Mar. # 769)

KREBS FILE

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## THE MEN, THE YEARS: WHERE HAVE THEY GONE? THE LIFE OF FELIX VOORHIES

By Ruth T. Grant\*

ELIX VOORHIES was born on the first day of the year 1830. His life, a span of more than eighty colorful and fulfilling years, began and ended in his beloved and tradition-filled Attakapas country. His roots lay deep in the soil of Europe; his

progeny have blossomed across the face of America.

This distinguished South Louisiana citizen traced his ancestry to Coerte-Albert Van-Voorhies, who, prior to the year 1600, resided in front of the village of Hees (as the name Voorhies indicates) near the town of Ruinen, in the province of Deuthe, Holland. A son of this same Coerte-Albert Van-Voorhies, Steven Coerte Van-Voorhies, emigrated from Holland in the early 1600s and settled in Flatland, Long Island, New York, where he held public office. His son, the first of the American generations to follow, was Coerte Steven Van-Voorhies, baptised January 23, 1678, at Flatland, Long Island, New York. He married Antie Remsen and became the father of Cornelius Van-Voorhies, who married Aeltic Couvenhoven and moved to New Jersey, settling five miles south of Princeton. Their son, Dan Van-Voorhies, (1) born March 9, 1749, in South Brunswick, New Jersey, served as an officer in the American Revolution. He and his wife, Eva Couvenhoven, were the parents of another Cornelius Voorhies, who traveled to and settled in South Louisiana. (2)

The first settler in the Attakapas country married Aimée Gradenigo, (3) descendant of a Venetian family who migrated to the Techeland and gained title to land on the east bank of that bayou a few miles below the present town of Leonville. (4) Their son, Cornelius, was born in 1803. (5) He married Cidalise Mouton, daughter of Jean Mouton, son of the

\*Extracted from "The Life and Writings of Judge Félix Voorhies," a thesis by Ruth Tilly Grant, L.S.U., 1940. Mrs. Grant, the former Ruth Emily Tilly of New Iberia, received her B.A. degree from S.L.I. in 1933 and the Masters degree from L.S.U. in 1940. Mrs. Grant now resides in Mandeville.

- 1. This spelling of the family name is evidently the first change from the original Dutch spelling.
- 2. The prefix "Van" (of the) has now been dropped from the name.
- 3. Church records (Opelousas Church, Vol. 1, p. 22) show that Cornelius Voorhies's wife was baptised Agatha Amato (sometimes Agatha Armée) May 14, 1780, at the age of three ½ months. She was the daughter of Jean Gradenigo of Venice, Italy, and Marguerite Krepps (Krebs) of Pensacola. Cornelius and Aimée were married August 2, 1803. One entry lists his parents as Daniel Voorhies and Sara Gordon. Donald J. Hebert, Southwest Louisiana Records, 2nd ed. (Privately printed, 1976), Vol. 1.
- 4. Jean Gradenigo married Marguerite Krebs March 17, 1766, Mobile Church, Vol. Vi, p. 49. The Opelousas general census of 1777 lists husband, wife, and five children (not Agatha Armée) living in the area. Jacqueline Voorhies, Some Late Eighteenth Century Louisianians (Lafayette, La., 1973), p. 288. The fact that the only animals he owned were two horses indicates that he was engaged in cultivation. Jean Gradenigo died in 1809 at the age of 80. After 1807, his son, Augustin, claimed title, through occupancy and cultivation to a tract containing 274 acres of land on the east bank of Bayou Teche just across and above the land granted to John L. Zeringue. Louisiana Register of State Land Claims, Certificate B 204. For location, see Gertrude C. Taylor, Land Grants Along the Teche, Part I (Lafayette, La., 1979).
- 5. Opelousas church records show that Cornelius Voorhies was baptised October 1804, at the age of 3 months. Hebert, Southwest Louisiana Records, I, 569. He died in St. Martinville, July 2, 1859, age 55. Ibid., V.

Jones F. La Chapelle

11 Portside Ct.

Grayslake, 2l. 60030-2636

1-708-223-4715

Targeneration from Jean L. gradenigo

Paul La Chapelle

210 Sevenhampton

Houston, TX

7 degeneration from Jean

Marilyn Pias 2405 Jackson St. Olepandria, 2a-Olepandria, 71301

Working on Morguerite Krebs

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GOLLOTT, Rosie Coralie

GRADENIGO (SOLD & OWNED BY), Ann(A) SLAVE b: ABT 1822 d: AFT 1837

GRADENIGO (SOLD & OWNED BY), John (SLAVE) b: ABT 1816

GRADENIGO, A

GRADENIGO, Aimee Agatha b: 14 FEB 1780 in E Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, LA d: 28 DEC 1863 in Opelousas, LA

GRADENIGO, Alfred

GRADENIGO, Antonio Donato b: 17 DEC 1781 in Opelousas, St. Landry

GRADENIGO, Augustin b: ABT 1772 in Pensacola d: BEF 1823 in Opelousas, St. Landry

GRADENIGO, Augustin b: 6 DEC 1811 in Parish of Saint Landry

GRADENIGO, Augustus b: ABT 1844 in Louisiana

GRADENIGO, Azelie

GRADENIGO, Bridget b: 28 MAR 1819 in Opelousas, LA

GRADENIGO, Brigida b: 8 MAR 1787 in Opelousas, LA

GRADENIGO, Celestine b: 26 MAY 1820 in Opelousas, LA

GRADENIGO, Charles b: 9 SEP 1812

GRADENIGO, Christine Josephine b: 23 SEP 1821 in Opelousas, LA

GRADENIGO, Elisa (Louisa) b: 12 SEP 1797 in Parish of Saint Landry

GRADENIGO, five slaves, gender unknown

GRADENIGO, Hilaire (Jr.) b: 29 SEP 1811

GRADENIGO, Hilario (Sr.) b: 3 JAN 1784 in Opelousas, LA d: 1821-1877abt 1842 in Opelousas, LA

GRADENIGO, Jean b: c. 1729 in Venice, Italy d: 1787 in Opeloussas

GRADENIGO, Jean b: 1773 in Parish of Saint Landry d: 11 DEC 1806 in Opelousas, LA

GRADENIGO, Jorge (George) b: 13 APR 1801 in Opelousas, St. Landry

GRADENIGO, Joseph b: ABT 1770 in Pensacola, West Florida

GRADENIGO, Joseph b: ABT 1822 d: AFT 1843

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GRADENIGO, Kreps b: ABT 1813

GRADENIGO, Louis d: AFT 1860

GRADENIGO, Louis d: AFT 1897 in ?New Orleans

GRADENIGO, Louisa b: 2 MAY 1778 in Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, LA

GRADENIGO, Margarita b: AFT 1776 d: 1855-1856

GRADENIGO, Marguerite b: ABT JAN 1809 in Parish of Saint Landry

GRADENIGO, Marie b: ABT 1774 in Opelousas, St. Landry

GRADENIGO, Martin

GRADENIGO, Mary, married b: ABT 1845 in Louisiana

GRADENIGO, Rose b: ABT 1867 in Louisiana

GRADENIGO, Theodule b: 2 AUG 1815 in Opelousas, LA

GRADENIGO, unknown b: betw 1800-1810

GRADENIGO, unknown girl b: betw 1800-1810

GRADENIGO, Valmont

GRADENIYA (?GRADENIGO), H. A. d: AFT JUN 1865

GRADINEGO (GRADENIGO, Ely

GRANT, H. K.

GRAVELINE (BAUDREAU, BUDRO), Louise Catherine b: 13 JAN 1742 in Weston (sic) French

Settlement, Livingston Co., LA OR Jackson Co., MS d: 1807 in Bayou LeBatre, Mobile Co., Alabama

GRAVELINE BOUDROUX, Jeanne Baptiste b: ABT 1735

GRAVELINE BOUDROUX, Marie Catherine b: 4 JAN 1735

GRAVELINE, First Wife of d: in Mobile

GRAVELINE, Jean Baptiste Boudreau de la b: ABT 1706 d: AFT 1786

GRELOT, Irene

GUILLORY, Marie Jeanne d: AFT 1764

GUY, Elizabeth

GUY, Marie Angelina

HARDY, Anne Jeanne b: 1662 in Point-aux, Trembly, Quebec

HARTSHORNE, David Cornelia (nee McCurtain) b: 11 AUG 1874 d: 1 APR 1973 in Skullyville

Cemetary (#55) (#32)

HARTSHORNE, Edward Duff b: MAR 1895 d: 29 APR 1927 in Skullyville

HARTSHORNE, Ewing

HARTSHORNE, George Ewing

HARTSHORNE, Jane

HARTSHORNE, Mary

HARTSHORNE, Vashti b: 18 FEB 1897 d: 19 MAY 1897 in Skullyville

**HUDSON** 

HUOT DE VAUBERY, Nicolas

INDENVERS (HINDENBURG), Joseph Antoine

JAMISON, Elize

JENNINGS, Noah

JOHNSON, Allen F.

JOHNSON, Joseph Thomas (J. T.) b: 1851 d: 1922 in Krebs Cemetary, Pascagoula

JOHNSON, Jules Krebs b: 6 AUG 1888 d: 3 FEB 1960 in Krebs Cemetary, Pascagoula

JOYEAUSE, PHILLIPPE

KING, Susan

KREBS (KREBBS), Cillen (Cillin) b: 5 DEC 1827 in Winston Co d: 16 MAR 1884 in Skullyville Co.,

IT, OK

KREBS, Adrian Antoine (D.D.) b: 20 NOV 1853 in East Pascagoula d: 22 SEP 1884

KREBS, Agnes b: 12 JAN 1778 in Round Island, Pascagoula, West Florida d: BEF 1779 in West

Florida

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KREBS, Alda Magdelen b: 29 JUN 1907

KREBS, Alfred b: 1836 in Winston Co., Miss.

KREBS, Alfred b: ABT 1848

KREBS, Alice b: ABT 1850

KREBS, Allen J.

KREBS, Allen J.

KREBS, Amada

KREBS, Amanda b: ABT 1855

KREBS, Anaise b: ABT 1853

KREBS, Anna Charite (Charitas) b: 12 JAN 1761 in Pascagoula, Rec'd at St. Louis Cathedral d: AFT

1796 in probably Dubuisson Cemetary, Bayou Bonfouca

KREBS, Anna Corine b: ABT 1819 in Pascagoula

KREBS, Anna Corinne (Ma Ma) b: 18 JUN 1861 in East Pascagoula d: 1952

KREBS, Antoine (Anthony) b: BEF 1795

KREBS, Antonie Raphael (elder) b: 8 SEP 1756 in French Louisiana d: 14 NOV 1790 in New Orleans

KREBS, Aristide Hilaire b: 1 NOV 1841 d: 1 APR 1867 in Krebs Cemetary

KREBS, Armand

KREBS, Arthur b: ABT 1846

KREBS, August Hiliare b: 2 NOV 1880 d: 15 APR 1968

KREBS, Basil (Basilio) b: 15 JUN 1795 in MS d: 8 FEB 1852 in Krebs Cemetary, Pascagoula

KREBS, Bazile Basilio b: 8 MAR 1763 in New Orleans, French Territory, French Louisiana d: BEF

1804 in WFT

KREBS, Benjamin b: 1843

KREBS, Benjamin Bazile b: 5 DEC 1856 in East Pascagoula d: 10 DEC 1919

KREBS, Beverly Louise b: 6 JAN 1928

KREBS, Brigitta Antionette Krebs b: BEF 1795 d: AFT 1820

KREBS, C. R.

KREBS, Caro

KREBS, Caroline b: 1839 in Mississippi

KREBS, Catherine Isabella b: 10 MAR 1852 in East Pascagoula d: 17 SEP 1853 in East Pascagoula

KREBS, Cecile b: 1854 d: 1915 in Krebs Cemetary, Pascagoula

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Seneralization records of
Mercedes Ray Perticit of Hourse, La
show Emelio Genin Keniason is
a daughter of Juan

Marainego Genin, daughter of
Marainego Krebs Gradinego, daughter of
Hugo E Krebs &
Jego E Krebs &
Jego Ascagoula, Ms

cheroal drawing dated 1848. Photo cheroal drawing dated 1848. Photo cheroal drawing dated 1848. Photo cheroal drawing from collection of by O. J. DAVIS from Collection of Cycle and La Blanc Davis, Passey of the Cycle and La Blanc Davis, Passey of the

GRADINEGO FILE

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CLOSSEAUX, François - native of Fontagnon in Perigore, parish of Bressant, bishopric of Perigeuil; sergeant in the company of GAMON stationed at this colony (major son of dec. Antoine CLOSSEAUX and Jeanne MOUSSE) Dated: 11 January 1762 at New Orleans Marie Anne DAUBLIN - native of des Allemands, bishopric of Quebec (minor dgtr. of dec. Valentin DAUBLIN and Marie Anne GRATIEN, now wife of Pierre RABY, a counsellor in this town)

Witnesses for groom: Jean LA COUE called Duboure, sergeant of affairs of the troops; Pierre BAILLON, soldier in the company of DUTILLET.

Witnesses for bride: RABY, her mother; Antoine MARMILLON; Nicolas CAILLEUX

Property: The bride brings into the marriage the property coming from the succession of her parents. As a marriage settlement, the groom presents 1000 *livres* 

Signed: Marie Anne DAUBLIN; Marie Anne RABY; La Con DUBOURG; RABY; BALLIO; MARMILLON; CAILLEUX; CHOION; BARY; CHANTALOU, notary.

(Natch. Ct. Hse.: Marriage Contract: Bk.3, p.626)

CLOUTIER, Alexis <u>Dated: 18 January 1767</u> Marie Louise RACHEL, widow of Noël GALLIEN

(PC Ct.Hse.: Supplementary marriage contract taken from the Clerk of Court Office. This record could not be located)

CLOUTIER, Alexis <u>Dated: 1788</u> Françoise LECOMTE, Widow Joseph DUPRÉ

(Natch. Ct.Hse.: Marriage Contract: Supplementary list found in Index of Conveyances - #2109; original record could not be located)

COLLINS, Luke - native of Hampshire County, Virginia (Luke COLLINS and Sara WHITE) <u>Dated: 17 February 1782</u> Zoé COURTA-BLEAU - native of this post (minor dgtr. of dec. Jacques COURTABLEAU, during his lifetime Capitaine de Milice et

Commandant par interim of the Opelousas Post, and Marguerite KINTREK)

Note: Before Alexandre Chevalier DE CLOUET, Lieutenant Colonel et Commandant Civil et Militaire des Postes Attakapas et Oppeloussas.

Witnesses for groom: Luke COLLINS and Sara WHITE, his father and mother; GRADENIGO; LE MELLE.

Witnesses for bride: DE LA BAUME, her tutor; Dame LA BAUME, her aunt; Luc HOLLIER and his wife, the bride's beau-frère and sister.

Property of groom: negre Thomas valued at 500 *piastres*; three horses *de tire* valued at 150 *piastres*; household goods for use in a home valued at 150 *piastres*; two pieces of land at Natchez of four hundred arpents valued at 300 *piastres*.

Property of bride: habitation of eleven arpents de face and eighty of depth, ...la continuation de 40 accorde par le Governement General on which a house sur sol of thirty feet in length and twenty in width is located, not counting the gallery, a magazin fifty feet by twenty feet on which is a moulin à Pilons, a kitchen of forty feet by fourteen feet with its clotures, situated at le Petit Bois valued at 800 piastres; fifty horned-animals of all ages and sex, not counting the calves de l'année valued at 600 piastres; two juments and one horse de tire valued at 50 piastres

Signed: Luke COLLINS; L. HOLLIER; DE LA BAUME; Zoé /x/COURTABLEAU; Sarah COLLINS; LEMELLE; KIENTREK la baume; Chas. /?/ PERCY /?/; GRADENIGO; Theo. COLLINS; Donato BELLO; John COLLINS; BRUNET; Sarah COLLINS; Wm. /?/ COLLINS; Le Chev. DE CLOUET.

(Opel. Ct. Hse.: Marriage Contract: 1782, #37)

COLLINS, Sara <u>Dated: 26 October 1786</u> Julien LESASSIER {See: LESASSIER, Julien}

COLLINS, Suzanne <u>Dated: 16 December 1800</u> Sylvestre BOSSIÉ {See: BOSSIER, Sylvestre}

Roy des Postes Attakapas et Opeloussas. "qui [the couple], par defaut de Contrat de Mariage lors de leurs etablissment conviennent en presence de Messieurs LEMELLE et GRADENI-GO..."

Signed: /x/ Marie Jeanne; jorg BOLIRD; fr. LEMELLE; GRADENIGO; Le Chev. DE CLOUET.

(Opel. Ct. Hse.: Marriage Contract: 1779, #64)

GERARD, Augustine <u>Dated: 31 July 1781</u> Armand DUPLANTIER {See: DUPLANTIER, Armand}

GHOLSON, Thomas - native of Brunswick county in Virginia; 27 years old (Jean GHOLSON and Fany TETTMAN) <u>Dated: 15 June 1803</u>
Sara LESASSIER - native of this district (dec. Julien LESASSIER, Captaine des Grenadiers et Commandant des Milices de ce poste, and Sara COLLINS, veuve LESASSIER)

Note: Before Don Martin DURALDE, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Witnesses for groom: Joseph ROY père; Joseph ROY, fils.

Witnesses for bride: Sara COLLINS, her mother; Theophile COLLINS and Luc COLLINS, uncles; Martha COLLINS, a relative.

Property of groom: negre Philippe, about 22 years old, of Maryland valued at 600 piastres; negre Daniel, about 20 years old, of Mariland valued at 550 piastres; negre Sanson, about 22 years old, of Pensilvanie valued at 500 piastres; negresse Alfa /?/, about 18 years old, of Maryland valued at 500 piastres; mulatresse Mohaley, about 17 years old valued at 455 piastres.

Property of bride: 500 *piastres*, given by the Widow LESASSIER. Signed: Sarah LE SASSIER; Joseph ROY; Sarah LE SASSIER; Theo COLLINS; Theo GHOLSON; Murtough COLLINS; Luke COLLINS; Martin DURALDE.

(Opel. Ct.Hse.: Marriage Contract: 1803, p.112)

GILCRIEST, Guillaume - native of North Carolina, Jonston County (major son of Jean GILCRIEST and dec. Armand DUCREST; Joseph HÉBEI

Signed: Antoin VISNEUR; BARON; MISSONNIERE; Bre. GUICHARD; Balthazar DE VILLIER; J B LACOUR; REMIE. (PC Ct.Hse.: Marriage Contract: Bk.1771-1772, #489)

VITRAC, Jacques - native of province of Gui-rel, city of Bordeaux, parish of St. Surin (major son of Louis VITRAC and Marguerite GARNIER, both deceased) <u>Dated: 17 June 1786</u> Clemence LA COUR (minor dgtr. of Marguerite LEONARD, who stipulates)

Witnesses for groom: Simon CROIZET; Jean Louis RICHÉ.

Witnesses for bride: her mother, widow in second marriage of dec. BORDELON; Baptiste LACOUR and Colin LACOUR, uncles.

Property of groom: two slaves; remedies and instruments of surgery.

Property of bride: rights of inheritance from her father and two of her sisters; wardrobe; linens; furniture; trinkets; 1000 piastres.

Signed: Jacques VITRAC; Clemence LACOUR; LACOUR; RICHÉ; S. CROIZET; Diego ORTIZ; RAINAUD; Zenon TRUDEAU.

(PC Ct.Hse.: Marriage Contracts: Bk.1786, #1495)

VOORHIES, Cornelius - native of New Jersey; age 26 (dec. Daniel VOORHIES and dec. Sara GORDON) <u>Dated: 22 July 1803</u>
Aimée GRADENIGO - native of this post (Jean GRADENIGO and Marguerite KREPS)

Notes: Before Don Martin DURALDE, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et Militaire de ce poste.

Witnesses for groom: Theophile COLLINS; Robert TAYLOR.

Witnesses for bride: Augustin GRADENIGO; Hilaire GRADENI-GO; Louis CARRIERE; François ROBIN; Jean Jacques Vernin D'EGREPONT.

Property of groom: property in New Jersey, county of Sommerset, owned jointly with his brothers, Peter and Guillaume VOO-RHIES, worth about 1000 *piastres*.

Property of bride: one hundred *bêtes-à-cornes* given by her Parain, dec. Laurent BAILLY, marked: "3" valued at 1000 *piastres*; a little mulatresse, Hortence, about 7 years old, native of this post

valued at 300 piastres; other effects valued at 200 piastres.

Signed: Augtin.- GRADENIGO; Cornelius VOORHIES; Aimée /x/GRADENIGO; Jean GRADENIGO; Theo. COLLINS; ROBIN md; Vernin DAIGREPONT; Robert TAYLOR; hilaire GRADENIGO; L. CARRIERE; Martin DURALDE.

(Opel. Ct. Hse.: Marriage Contract: 1803, p.16)

WALLACE, Witington - native of Baltimore, Maryland (major son of Thomas WALLACE and Rebeca MACHAIN) <u>Dated: 2 January</u>

1795 Lucy WHITE - native of Virginia (minor dgtr. of John WHITE and Cere [Sara] GAMBELL)

Note: Before CASO y LUENGO, Commandant.

Witnesses for groom: Antonio MARTINEZ; Victor BLANCHARD.

Witnesses for bride: William WHITE; Jesse WHITE, her brothers. (SM Ct.Hse.: Marriage Contract: OA Bk.16, #128)

WHETEN, Marie <u>Dated: 28 October 1772</u> Guillaume MARRE [See: MARRE, Guillaume]

WHITE, Anne "Nancy" <u>Dated: 24 February 1794</u> Joseph CARR {See: CARR, Joseph}

WHITE, Lucy <u>Dated: 2 January 1795</u> Whitington WALLACE {See: WALLACE, Whitington}

WILKINS, Noble - native of Stroban, Ireland (Jean WILKINS and Genie SMAYLIE) <u>Dated: 1 October 1800</u> Marie Anne GODIN - native of Halifax in North America; widow in first marriage of René BROUSSARD (Bonaventure GODIN and Theotiste THIBODEAU)

Note: Before DEBLANC, Commandant.

Witnesses for groom: Jean O'REILLY; Jean MAYER.

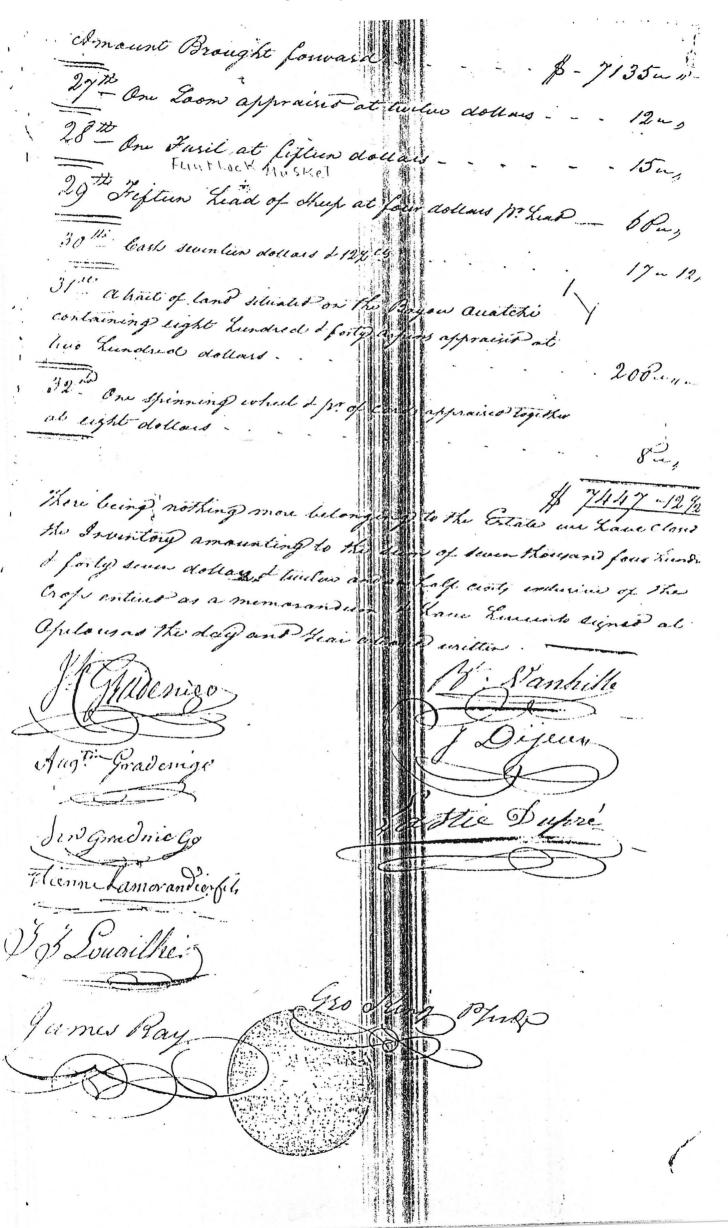
Witnesses for bride: Jean BROUSSARD; Alexandre HÉBERT

(SM Ct.Hse.: Marriage Contract: OA Bk.41/2, #15)

probate 6. ST. LANDRY PARK ESTAT

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Pascagoula Public Library Local History & Genealogy Department Gradenigo Family

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Pascagoula Public Library Local History & Genealogy Department Gradenigo Family

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Pascagoula Public Library Local History & Genealogy Department Gradenigo Family

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## . Ubituary

Mae Gloria Gradney La Chapelle was born on June 15, 1912 to Maye Gradney and Rosa Dontenot Gradney in Mamou, Lousiana. her family moved to Raywood, Texas when she was a young child and she resided there until her death.

She was a member of the Knight of Peter Claver Ladies Auxillary Court 83 and the Altar Society at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. she also served as a catechism teaches in her parish for several years.

Maz Gloria was united in marriage to Louis LaChapelle Jr., who preseded her in death, for 63 years.

From this union, she leaves to cherish her memory one daughter and five sons. Paul La Chapelle St. and Mary Magdalen La Chapelle Espree of Houston, Texas; Alexis Mayo. Herman Louis, and John Robert La Chapelle of Raywood, Texas and James Planagan La Chapelle of Grayplake, Illinois.

Also cherishing her memory are her sisters Mary Gladys Gradney of Raywood and Rosa Mae Soto of Yuba City, California; her son-in-law Ray Espree, daughter-in-law Gloria, Shirley, Kay, Drankie and Carolyn LaChapelle; 29 Grandchildren, 38 Great Grandchildren, sister-in-law Bernadette and Lillie Bell Gradney and a host of precious nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

She is also preceded in death by her parents, her son Jesse Bernard LaChapelle Sr., Grandson Paul LaChapelle Jr., Granddaughter Rosa Marie Espree, brothers Wilson and Gumbleton Gradney, sisters Marcella Cowart, Effie Arceneaux, Elma Bell, Elvina Verdun and Theresa Guidry, and daughters-in-law Louise and Ruth LaChapelle.